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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. S.L. Roberson, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Ypsilanti, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Almighty, all wise, ever-present, glorious, and merciful God, we come today prayerfully opening this session of the United States House of Representatives offering thanksgiving to You. We bless You, magnify You, exalt You, thank You, and praise You for Your world love and saving grace.

We pray that You will continue to bless America, building her up where we are torn down, strengthening us where we are weak, and drawing us closer together. We ask that You cover this deliberating body with abundant wisdom and understanding, and that You lead, guide, and renew a right spirit in each Member.

Direct these deliberations into meaningful, positive actions reflecting Your excellence in power, in judgment, in justice, in clarity, and unity for America and our global friends.

Finally, reveal and enlighten the best that is in each of us so that we may use our gifts to glorify You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1. rule I. the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVEREND DR. S.L. ROBERSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DIN-GELL) is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have the great privilege today of welcoming and thanking a dear friend, a distinguished American, and a wonderful clergyman to the House for the prayer, and I want to thank you and my colleagues for your courtesy to

I am delighted to present to my colleagues the wonderful gentleman from Ypsilanti, the Reverend S.L. Roberson, and I want to thank him for taking time to be with us today to act as our guest chaplain.

He has dedicated his life to the service of his fellow man and is one of the most beloved and respected pastors and citizens of the State of Michigan. He has been pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti for 53 years. He has served his country with great distinction as a member of the United States Marine Corps, of which he is very proud.

He has undergraduate degrees from Eastern Michigan University, has studied at Detroit Bible College, and has a doctorate of divinity from Urban Bible College so that he may more fully and better serve his fellow man.

In addition to his civic and spiritual service, he has worked for Ford Motor Company for 33 years in their Labor Relations and Personnel Services of Industrial Relations Department. He has found time to serve as president of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission and is chaplain of the Ypsilanti Police Department.

He is a wonderful individual to provide the opening prayer for the Congress because of his great life experiences and his wonderful service to his country, including distinguished service in the military. He has given his fellow citizens over 50 years of spiritual guidance, and he has administered God's word to civil servants and citizens alike all across Michigan.

I ask my colleagues to welcome this distinguished American, our guest chaplain, Rev. S.L. Roberson, and to welcome his wife and friends who are in the gallery today.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. We have before us a man of great respect and a real cornerstone to his commu-

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for further 1minute speeches on each side of the

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, Democrats are taking a new direction in America. We realize that restoring the American Dream begins with a great education. Unfortunately, over the last 6 years affording a 4-year college education has become increasingly difficult, especially for the middle class. That is why this Congress is providing the single largest investment in higher education since the creation of the GI Bill

We make college more affordable for all Americans by reducing the cost of student loans and increasing the size of Pell Grants, and we do this all with no new cost to the taxpayers. Our investment in college students would be paid for by reducing the excessive Federal subsidies to the student loan industry.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Madam Speaker, this new Democratic Congress is working to help restore the American Dream by opening the doors of a college education to more Americans. We need to all work together to raise all boats.

LISTEN TO ALL THE FACTS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Congress will soon hear from members of our military as well as civilian advisers about progress in Iraq. Yesterday, the General Accounting Office released its report. This one report tells only a partial account. We should base decision-making on complete information from our military leaders.

The GAO report does not assess progress being made on the ground, progress our military commanders have indicated is occurring. The benchmarks outlined in the report are laudable goals, assessed by dedicated officials. Developing democracy to protect American families takes time, as we learned in Germany and Japan. It took America 13 years to adopt our Constitution.

Next week, we will receive a report from our top commander in the field, GEN David Petraeus, and our top diplomat, Ambassador Ryan Crocker. We should remain open and receptive to what these professionals have to say. We must protect American families by making difficult but informed decisions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR EVERY CITIZEN

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, how many ears must we have before we can hear people cry?

Last week, the Census Bureau informed us that more Americans than ever before in our Nation's history are going without access to health care; 46 million, 46 million citizens have no health care coverage. But this national nightmare is measured best not in numbers, but in human lives. Families across Wisconsin are going bankrupt because they can't afford their medical bills. Teenagers across the country will go blind because they do not have access to the care they need for their diabetes.

Congress doesn't need a census report to feel people's pain. And as Members of Congress, we must not wait for yet another census report before we act. It is our duty and our moral responsibility to act now.

People in Wisconsin and everywhere else in America demand we establish

universal access to affordable care for every citizen, and working together, we will

THANKING CONSTITUENTS FOR INPUT AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

(Mr. McHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, the right of people to openly and freely question their leaders and discuss solutions to common problems is the reason our democracy works.

I hold town hall meetings every August all across my district. This August, I had nine town hall meetings. I had over 700 people come out to these meetings. It is a wonderful time. The overwhelming majority of my constituents had a clear message: It is high time to change the way Washington does business.

The people of western North Carolina are sick of wasteful spending and the broken Tax Code that funds it. They have had it with incompetence and waste in Federal bureaucracies. They are sick and tired of Washington not securing the border and stopping illegal immigration.

Again, I want to thank my constituents for coming out to these town hall meetings. It is a sincere pleasure to represent them and to try to fight for that change here in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank them for coming out and making their voices heard. I have listened, and I am working to make that change.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, last week I was fortunate to visit Mexico City as a part of a bipartisan trip organized by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Our trip provided an excellent opportunity for my colleagues and me to meet with prominent Mexican leaders in business, journalism and government.

It also provided a forum to discuss ongoing political and economic changes in Mexico and ways in which we can improve the relationship between the United States and Mexico. We discussed civic and political life in both countries, how we can work more closely with Mexican partner institutions to help bring about a more open, competitive and equitable society. One example is the security issues we both face, one which we share.

Madam Speaker, our relationship with our friend and neighbor Mexico is critically important. It cries out for more cooperation and engagement.

I want to thank the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars and its Mexico institute for facilitating this important dialogue. I know I was better able to get a picture of the state of democracy in Mexico, the shared goals and challenges that confront both of our countries, how we can be better neighbors to one another.

So I hope we can continue this important conversation and build a better future for the United States and for Mexico.

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IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST TYLER ROSS SEIDEMAN

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man beloved by his family, friends and his community. I rise to remember Specialist Tyler Ross Seideman of the United States Army who was taken from us 2 weeks ago today in Multaka, Iraq.

Tyler and 13 of his Army brothers passed away when the Black Hawk he was in went down due to mechanical problems. Tyler, from the small town of Lincoln, Arkansas, was a sniper in the 2nd Battalion of the 35th Infantry Regiment based out of Hawaii. His closest friends described him with adjectives such as "brave," a "great soldier" and a "perfect gentleman."

I had the opportunity to attend Tyler's funeral this past Saturday. The outpouring of love and support from the people of Lincoln is something I will remember for the rest of my life.

My prayers and those of my family are with Tyler's parents, Bill and Lee Ann, and sisters Kiera and Kristen. I thank them for raising a man such as Tyler, and I thank Tyler for his service to a grateful Nation.

CHANGING COURSE IN IRAQ

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, for months now this Democratic Congress has tried to change course in Iraq, but a stubborn President, supported by a rubber-stamp Republican Congress in both the House and the Senate, has made that impossible

In the spring, Republican leaders said by September, which is now, we should know if the President's troop escalation plan is working. And if it wasn't, then they would be ready to explore a different course.

Yesterday, the GAO released a report concluding that the Iraqi Government had fallen short of meeting 11 of the 18 benchmarks that President Bush said they would have to meet. The report also found that four other benchmarks had only partially been met. That means that the Iraqi Government has met only three of 18 benchmarks. Let's not forget that the main reason that

the President gave for the troop escalation earlier this year was to better secure the Nation so that the Iraqi Government could meet these political objectives. The GAO report concludes that "violence remains high" and that the political promises have not been kept.

Madam Speaker, I would only hope that our Republican colleagues would take a serious look and join us, as they said they would, in demanding a change of course in Iraq.

COST OF WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, the President's war has already cost the American people dearly in both lives and tax dollars. Congress has appropriated nearly \$477 billion for the war since March 2003, and the U.S. is currently spending an estimated \$10 billion a month on the war. This spending continues despite reports that 15 of 18 benchmarks for success have not been met and casualties in the war are 65 percent higher this year than last.

This Democratic Congress and the American people are ready for a new direction. We believe it is time to bring our troops home and begin investing here in the U.S.

If you took just some of the money we are spending in Iraq and invested it here instead, we could take care of a lot of our seniors' prescription drug cost problems. And for the cost of just one week in Iraq, we could hire 51,000 more police officers to make our streets safer.

Madam Speaker, it is time for Republicans in this body to listen to the American people and join us in calling for an end to the financial drain of this war. It is time to invest in making our Nation safer here at home.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago the Children's Health Insurance Program was instituted. Since then, 6 million children have been given access to private health care insurance in this country. It was absolutely the right thing to do.

But new evidence from the Census Bureau released last week suggests that we are now slipping backwards. The number of children without health insurance coverage in this country increased from 8 million in 2005 to 8.7 million in 2006. That is why we passed 4 weeks ago the CHAMP Act which would increase insurance coverage for children to an additional 5 million children in this country. That's the direction we need to be going in.

Unfortunately, the President is threatening to veto the CHAMP Act. I

hope the President will reconsider, stop posturing on this issue, and do the right thing by America's children.

THE KILLING OF JAMIE DEAN

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, as we enter this period when the President is going to come before us and ask us to extend the surge in Iraq, we ought to hear the story of Jamie Dean.

Jamie Dean was a 29-year-old who came from Hollywood, Maryland. He enlisted and served 4 years, including 1 year in Afghanistan where he cleaned out caves and did all of the tough things that went on there. He came home severely depressed, suffering from PTSD, was being treated at the Veterans Hospital after being honorably discharged from the United States Army.

And then he got the letter. On November 26, he received a letter that said pursuant to Executive Order of 14 September 2001, you are relieved from your present reserve component status and are ordered to report to duty. He was going to be sent within 2 months into Iraq, a man who is suffering from PTSD.

This man broke. He started to drink. He had weapons holed up in his home. The day after Christmas, he was surrounded by the police and was shot dead.

We are breaking the Army. We are breaking the Marines. These people should be thought about when we consider the extension.

GAO REPORT FINDS LITTLE PROGRESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, President Bush continues to ignore reality in Iraq, instead glossing over the deteriorating situation while asking for more money from Congress and more personal sacrifice from our troops

A report released by the White House in July claimed that progress had been made on eight of the 18 benchmarks mandated by the Congress. But a new, unbiased report from the GAO shows that the situation is even worse than the White House led us to believe.

According to the GAO report, Iraq has failed to meet all but three of the 18 benchmarks required for political and military progress in Iraq. Some of the report's most disconcerting findings include the fact that the capabilities of Iraqi security forces have not improved and that violence remains high.

Madam Speaker, with the release of this discouraging and objective report, Republicans in this body must decide whether to continue rubber-stamping the President's failed policy in Iraq or begin working with Democrats to bring our troops home.

DEVASTATING FIRES RAGE THROUGH GREECE

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as cochair and cofounder of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today in strong support of the Sarbanes resolution, H. Res. 629, expressing the condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the Government and the people of Greece for the loss of 65 lives and destruction caused by the devastating fires raging through Greece, and which pledges our full support and solidarity to Greece.

This disaster has affected all parts of Greece. Thousands of people are homeless, many of whom have lost all of their possessions. Hundreds of thousands of acres of land have been ravaged. Our government has pledged \$1.3 million to aid Greece during this difficult time. We have sent professional help and fire equipment.

Along with my colleagues in the Hellenic Caucus, we will be urging the State Department to remain in close contact with Greek authorities so that the United States can continue to assist in every way with this effort.

Greece has been a strong ally to our Nation, assisting us in times of need, including the terrible terrorist attacks on September 11 and Hurricane Katrina. We must now help Greece in its time of need. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Greece.

CHAMP ACT

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, last week the Census Bureau came out with a new report that shows the number of children living without health insurance increased last year by 700,000. It is the second year in a row that the number of uninsured children has increased. Today, 8.7 million children in this country are going without the critical health care services they need to live a healthy and productive life.

Fortunately, this Democratic Congress has acted to reverse this disturbing trend. Last month, this House passed the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. The legislation provides an additional \$50 billion in funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program which today provides 6 million children access to private health insurance.

Unfortunately, there are 6 million other children that are eligible for the program but are not currently enrolled. Our \$50 billion investment would allow us to reach almost every

child who is currently eligible which would significantly reduce the number of uninsured children in America.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has acted. It is time for the President to join with us in prioritizing the health care needs of our children.

THE "RE-SADDAMIZATION" OF IRAQ

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, last week I talked to a father who lost his son in May in Iraq. He was, of course, devastated. He asked me a question: Why did my son die in Iraq?

That is a question that will be on all of our minds in the coming days when we receive the new report from Iraq. When we look at the report in a very calm, dispassionate manner, I hope we think about what is really going on in Iraq. What is really going on in Iraq, what the President has crowed about as a great success in these regions is what you might call the Saddamization" of Iraq.

The President is going to brag about the sense that he is now giving more power to tribes and tribal sheikhs who at some point when we eventually leave Iraq will be better equipped and better armed to fight the central government that the President used to crow about.

I think we need to have a calm, dispassionate review of what we're doing. We are creating the conditions that could result in a worse civil war. We have to have a calm review and make the right choices.

PRIORITIZE CHILDREN'S HEALTH

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker. President Bush has threatened to veto a bill that would provide health care insurance to 5 million children who are currently uninsured. The President's reason: The bill is simply too expensive. But what he ignores is the fact that the CHAMP Act is fully paid for.

This Democratic House is concerned that too many children are growing up without health insurance, making it impossible for them to receive the regular checkups that they need to live long and healthy lives. The CHAMP Act would strengthen the CHIP program, a popular Federal-State health care partnership so we can reach nearly all of the children who are currently eligible for the program.

The price tag is an additional \$50 billion over 5 years. Again, the President says it is simply too much money. Yet, he has no problem asking this Congress to rubber-stamp a new Iraq war emergency funding bill that press reports say could be as high as \$50 billion and that would only last about 5 months.

Madam Speaker, it is time President Bush prioritize the health care needs of our Nation's children. He should simply support the CHAMP Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert a personal explanation at this point with respect to H.R. 811. Although I am listed as a cosponsor of the bill, on further reflection, I do not support the bill and intend to vote against the bill. Were the bill not already on the Union Calendar, I would delete my name from the list of cosponsors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Solis). Without objection, the gentleman's statement will appear in the

There was no objection.

□ 1030

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members that, under clause 7 of rule XVII, it is not in order to bring to the attention of the House an occupant of the gallery.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVES-TIGATE THEVOTING IRREG-ULARITIES OF AUGUST 2, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 611, 110th Congress, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007:

Mr. Delahunt, Massachusetts, Chair-

Mr. DAVIS, Alabama

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, South Dakota

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEAD-

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

House of Representatives Washington, DC, September 4, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker, H-232, U.S. Capitol, $Washington,\,DC.$

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to House Resolution 611, I am pleased to appoint the following Members to the Select Committee on Voting Irregularities.

Mr. Mike Pence of Indiana-Ranking Member, Mr. Steven LaTourette of Ohio, and Mr. Kenny Hulshof of Missouri.

These Members have expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill their requests.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER. Republican Leader.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE HOUSE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GREECE

Mr FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 629) extending the condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the Government and the people of Greece for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the devastating fires raging through Greece since June 2007.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 629

Whereas more than 3,000 forest fires have been recorded in Greece since June 2007;

Whereas over a 10-day period, an estimated 4,000 people saw their homes destroyed by the wildfires, which razed dozens of villages. destroyed livestock and charred an estimated 469,000 acres of mostly forest and farmland:

Whereas dozens of Greek families have lost their loved ones to the fires:

Whereas thousands of Greeks have been left homeless and hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine forest have been destroyed;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of mature olive trees, vineyards and thousands of animals perished in the flames:

Whereas damage to the Greek economy is estimated at between \$1,600,000,000 and \$5,400,000,000:

Whereas the United States and Greece have stood side by side in confronting world challenges throughout the 20th century, and will stand together in confronting this new challenge; and

Whereas the United States, through its government, its people and its Greek-American community, has already extended significant support to the people of Greece during this difficult time: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representa-

tives-

(1) extends its condolences and sympathy to the Government and the people of Greece for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the devastating fires raging through Greece;

(2) vows its full support and solidarity to a close friend, a strategic partner, and a longstanding ally in this painful and difficult hour;

(3) fully supports the Administration's initiatives to provide assistance and relief to the people of Greece, including its pledge of \$1,500,000 in aid as well as expert and technical assistance;

(4) encourages public institutions, specialized agencies, as well as private citizens, to offer their resources; and

(5) expresses confidence that Greece and its people will succeed in overcoming the hardships incurred through this tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank my honorable colleague and dear friend from the State of Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) for introducing this timely resolution that extends sympathy to our Greek friends, and I want to also add my name as a cosponsor of this proposed legislation.

Madam Speaker, while many people across Europe and the United States spent the month of August soaking up the summer sunshine and enjoying their vacations, thousands of Greeks were engaged in a desperate struggle to save their homes, livestock and beautiful countryside from the devastating effects of wildfires.

Americans watched in alarm as television footage showed flames ominously approaching the ruins of temples and stadiums in ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

They were saddened to see the worst fires in Greece's living memory sweep across well-known and picturesque tourist sites, including Corfu and Kefalonia in the west and the Peloponnese in the south of the country, Madam Speaker, and their hearts ached at the personal stories of individuals who lost their homes as well as family members to the all-consuming power of the fire.

The sobering statistics highlight the true extent of the loss. Over a 10-day period, an estimated 4,000 people lost their homes, while around 469,000 acres of forest and farmland were destroyed. Dozens of families are now without their loved ones while thousands have been left homeless. According to media reports, estimated costs for the destruction of homes and properties are well over \$1 billion.

Here in the United States, we know all too well how devastating the effects of Mother Nature can be, as Americans in Utah and Montana launched their own battle against damaging wildfires this summer, and exactly 2 years ago New Orleans and other Southern cities suffered from the destructive effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Just as we valued the aid of foreign nations in our difficult hours, we stand ready to offer a helping hand to our Greek friends during their time of need. This House extends its deepest condolences to the Government and people of Greece following the vast destruction wrought by the wildfires. We welcome the administration's pledge of financial aid as well as technical assistance, and we express confidence in the ability of the Greek people, who have personified the strength of Zeus throughout their history, to overcome the hardships resulting from this tragedy.

I strongly support this measure and urge my colleagues to join me in expressing sympathy for and solidarity with our good people from Greece.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROŠ-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution, and I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the author of the resolution, as well as the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Lantos, for their leadership in bringing this resolution quickly to the floor today.

This resolution allows the Members of this House the opportunity to extend our profound condolences to the people of Greece and to their government over the tragic losses endured during the recent fires in Greece which have claimed the lives of scores of people.

The human toll in casualties, injuries and loss of property is difficult to bear, with an estimated 4,000 people having lost loved ones, homes and, indeed, even communities.

Moreover, hundreds of thousands of acres of Greek forests and farmland have been obliterated. And all of this, Madam Speaker, has occurred as a result of the more than 3,000 forest fires that have broken out in Greece since June

This massive tragedy has been bravely shouldered by the people of Greece. The heartfelt thoughts and prayers of the American people are with the families and friends of those who lost their lives in this tragedy and with all of the people of Greece.

United in friendship, the United States and Greece have stood together on the same side of many of the world challenges throughout the last century. It is appropriate, therefore, that we provide assistance and support to our friend and ally in this hour of need.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to support this resolution and, in so doing, express their condolences and pledge their support for efforts to relieve the suffering endured by the people of Greece as a result of the tragic fires that have rayaged their nation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure that I yield whatever time that he needs, as the chief sponsor of this proposed legislation, to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and for his support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congresswoman Maloney, Congressman Bilirakis, Congressman Space and many, many others in this body, in support of H. Res. 629, expressing the deepest of sympathy to the families who have incurred enormous loss and who continue to suffer the effects of the terrible fires that have raged across Greece since June.

I also want to thank Chairman Lantos and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen and their staffs for their assistance in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Official reports of damage from the Greek Government will be forthcoming in the next few weeks, but on Monday, the New York Times reported that over a 10-day period an estimated 4,000 people saw their homes destroyed by the wildfires which razed dozens of villages, destroyed livestock and charred an estimated 469,000 acres of mostly forest and farmland.

As of Sunday, the official death toll had risen to 65. According to the Greek fire brigade, thousands have been rendered homeless, and hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine forest have been destroyed. The fire has also affected a substantial part of Greece's agricultural sector. According to Reuters, hundreds of thousands of mature olive trees, vineyards and thousands of animals perished in the flames. Overall damage to the economy is estimated at 1.2 billion to 4 billion Euros.

As the resolution reads, we take this moment to stand with the people of Greece and vow to come to their aid as they have done for us and others throughout the world time and time again. There is no doubt that the people of Greece will prevail in the face of this difficult time. There is no doubt that they will succeed in the recovery effort.

My colleagues and I have been working to identify areas where the United States Government can assist in the near term and as part of the longer commitment that will be needed in reversing the damage. We are grateful that the U.S. Government has already extended funding and other support in this regard, and we are very proud of the commitment already demonstrated by our friends and organizations in the Greek American community who are coordinating a substantial relief effort of their own.

I'd like to thank the Greek ambassador, Ambassador Mallias, for his leadership in reaching out and helping to coordinate assistance to his country. He's here with us today in the gallery.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to tell a story briefly. I had the opportunity to visit Greece in 1985, more than 20 years ago, with my grandmother who had not been there for almost 30 years. I remember her taking me by the hand as we walked through her village, which

is in the southern Peloponnese, and the Peloponnese has been particularly hard hit by these fires.

And as we walked the paths of her childhood, I remember that she was looking for one particular olive tree that she remembered not from 30 years prior but from 60 years before that she played under as a small child. It was a touchstone of her childhood and of her memories, and it made an incredible impression on me, the love, the connection that she had to this village and to that land.

Today, for many Greeks and for many Greek Americans, these touchstones, these sacred markers have gone up in flames. Beyond this, the loss of life is tragic. For these reasons, Americans all across this country are moved to reach out to the citizens of Greece.

Madam Speaker, the spirit of the Greek people is indomitable. It will triumph over this tragedy, and with this resolution, America signifies that it stands with Greece and its people in this hour of need.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague and good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 629 and extend my condolences and sympathy to the people and the Government of Greece for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the raging fires that destroyed the homes, villages, farms, livestock, but not the spirit, of the country.

Since June of this year, the people and the Government of Greece have been battling forest fires due to extensive heat and lack of rain. An estimated 495,000 acres of mostly forest and farmland have been destroyed, the worst damage since the 1950s.

Today I stand with my colleagues, Chairman FALEOMAVAEGA and the ranking member, to avow close support and solidarity to a close friend, a strategic partner and a longstanding ally in this painful and difficult hour.

I applaud the administration's initiative to provide assistance and relief to the people of Greece, including its pledge of \$1.5 million in aid, as well as expert and technical assistance. I have confidence that Greece and its people will succeed in overcoming the hard-ship incurred through this tragedy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I thank the honored guests who are with us today. We grieve for the people today, and we stand with them in this time of sorrow ready to help.

With that, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I also want to commend and thank my good friend, the senior ranking member of our committee, for her support and her assistance in managing this legislation, and I want to thank my colleague from Maryland for his most eloquent and moving speech this morning to share with our colleagues in the House the tragedy facing the good people of Greece, and I sincerely hope that we will support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 629.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and navs.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1045

PACIFIC ISLAND ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3062) to authorize appropriations to provide for South Pacific exchanges, provide technical and other assistance to countries in the Pacific region through the United States Agency for International Development, and authorize appropriations to provide Fulbright Scholarships for Pacific Island students, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3062

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pacific Island Economic and Educational Development Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY EXCHANGES.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for exchanges with Pacific Island countries carried out under the educational and cultural exchange programs of the Department of State.

SEC. 3. USAID IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is authorized, upon request by the government of a Pacific Island country, to provide to such government technical and other assistance.

SEC. 4. J. FULBRIGHT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- (1) From 1949 until 2003, the Department of State awarded 13,176 Fulbright Scholarships to students from East Asia and the Pacific, but only 31 Fulbright Scholarships went to students from Pacific Island countries.

- (2) In the 2003–2004 academic year, the Department of State awarded 315 scholarships to students from East Asia and the Pacific, but none were awarded to students from Pacific Island countries.
- (b) REVIEW AND REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall conduct a review and submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report regarding the marginalization of students from Pacific Island countries in the awarding of Fulbright Scholarships.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS FROM PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES IN THE J. FULBRIGHT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.—

- (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall establish a program within the J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program (established under section 112(a)(1) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460(a)(1)), commonly referred to as the Fulbright-Hays Act) to make awards to students from Pacific Island countries to permit such students to study in the United States pursuant to the terms and conditions of such Exchange Program.
- (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts that are otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to provide awards under the J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$500,000 for each of such fiscal years to provide such awards to students from Pacific Island countries.

SEC. 5. PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY DEFINED.

- In this Act, the terms "Pacific Island country" and "Pacific Island countries" mean any of the following countries:
 - (1) The Cook Islands.
 - (2) The Federated States of Micronesia.
 - (3) The Independent State of Samoa.
 - (4) The Kingdom of Tonga.
 - (5) Niue.
 - (6) Papua New Guinea.
- (7) The Republic of Fiji.
- (8) The Republic of Kiribati.
- (9) The Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- (10) The Republic of Nauru.
- (11) The Republic of Palau.
- (12) The Republic of Vanuatu.
- (13) The Solomon Islands.
- (14) Tuvalu.
- The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this proposed resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to thank the distinguished chairman of our committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and our senior ranking member of our committee, the gentlewoman

from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) for their support and their leadership in bringing this important legislation before the floor.

I am pleased to bring to the floor today a bill that will benefit the entire Pacific region. I am honored and proud to sponsor this legislation.

While they may be overlooked when listing our great allies, the United States has long and profound relationships with the Pacific Island nations that stretch back more than two centuries. With consideration of this legislation today, Congress will act to significantly strengthen this vitally important alliance.

The Pacific Island nations have long been integral to our strategic interests, from the vital role they played in the Pacific theatre of operations during World War II to their critical role that they played in the conduct of our nuclear testing and missile defense system that even today is critical to our overall military and strategic interests in this important region of the world.

We work closely with the nations of the Pacific to combat transnational threats, particularly the rapidly increasing peril posed by global warming. The people of the Pacific have also fought and sacrificed side-by-side with American soldiers in conflicts from World War II to the current war in Iran.

But as we look towards the Pacific, we must step up both our multilateral and bilateral relationships to provide critically needed assistance to ensure that other countries do not fill the void. Foreign assistance and scholarship offerings from other countries to the Pacific Island nations has increased dramatically in recent years. Such aid comes with few requirements for good governance and few environmental or labor standards.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, our public diplomacy program and educational and cultural exchanges with the Pacific Island nations is shameful and without excuse.

Left unchecked, such foreign assistance from other countries can cause further instability, leaving these island nations to believe the United States no longer is interested to assist them, and thereby leave them vulnerable to establish friendships with countries that do not necessarily support our interests in this vast region of the world.

We must act now to fill the void and exert our influence. The Pacific Island Economic and Educational Development Act of 2007 seeks to address the development needs of our allies in the Pacific Islands and to engage the United States in the region more deeply.

This legislation pushes for greater activity in the Pacific Islands by authorizing the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to listen to the needs of the leaders of the Pacific Islands and to provide assistance accordingly. This task would be significantly easier if USAID rees-

tablished a serious presence in the Pacific Island region, something that has been long overdue.

The legislation also authorizes funds to increase the number of Fulbright scholars from the Pacific islands, making use of our most successful international educational program to increase the training of future leaders of the Pacific Islands. Fostering educational opportunities overseas is one of this government's strongest and most effective public diplomacy tools. Leveraging these grants would represent a tremendous way of reengaging with these critical allies in the Pacific region.

Under section 2 of this bill now entitled Pacific Island Country Exchanges, it is the intent of Congress to specifically increase funding for the U.S.-South Pacific Scholarship program, a program which has been in place since 1994, and has been administered by the East-West Center in Honolulu under the direction of the U.S. Department of State. The U.S.-South Pacific Scholarship program has successfully trained many Pacific Island leaders, and it is imperative to U.S. interests in the region that we continue this program.

In this new world where shipping is vulnerable to terrorism and climate change is a top priority, we need these Pacific Island nations as much as they need us. Let's commit to reengaging with them, to strengthening our alliances with them, and to aiding them in every way possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3062, the Pacific Island Economic and Educational Development Act. The island nations of the South Pacific, which include longstanding friends of the United States, face continuing challenges in development and education.

I want to commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his leadership in introducing this legislation and for working with us in the committee to refine it during the committee process.

Because the amended text deals with authorizations, not mandates or appropriations, it signals congressional interest in deepening our cooperation with the people of the Pacific Islands, while also allowing executive branch agencies appropriate discretion in carrying out such programs.

The text before us will increase the amounts authorized for U.S. educational and cultural exchanges with South Pacific nations to \$1 million in each of the next 2 fiscal years, establish a Fulbright exchange program for Pacific Island students, and underscore the interests of the United States Congress in making appropriate USAID

technical assistance available to Pacific Island governments.

I thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for accommodating some of our suggested changes. I am pleased to support the amended text.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. Faleomavaega) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3062, as amended.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-POLAND PAR-LIAMENTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM ACT OF 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 377) to establish a United States-Poland parliamentary youth exchange program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 377

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) The United States established diplomatic relations with the newly-formed Polish Republic in April 1919.
- (2) The United States and Poland have enjoyed close bilateral relations since 1989.
- (3) Poland became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in March 1999.
- (4) Poland became a member of the European Union (EU) in May 2004.
- (5) Poland has been a strong supporter, both diplomatically and militarily, of efforts led by the United States to combat global terrorism and has contributed troops to the United States-led coalitions in both Afghanistan and Iraq.
- (6) Poland cooperates closely with the United States on such issues as democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations.
- (7) The United States and Poland seek to ensure enduring ties between both governments and societies.
- (8) It is important to invest in the youth of the United States and Poland in order to help ensure long-lasting ties between both societies.
- (9) It is in the interest of the United States to preserve a United States presence in Europe and to continue to contribute to the development of transatlantic relationships.
- (10) Poland for many years received international and United States financial assistance and is now determined to invest its own

resources toward attaining its shared desire with the United States to develop international cooperation.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-POLAND PARLIAMEN-TARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Government of Poland, may establish and carry out a parliamentary exchange program for youth of the United States and Poland.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The youth exchange program carried out under this subsection shall be known as the "United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program".

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the youth exchange program is to demonstrate to the youth of the United States and Poland the benefits of friendly cooperation between the United States and Poland based on common political and cultural values.

(d) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—An individual is eligible for participation in the youth exchange program if the individual—

(1) is a citizen or national of the United States or of Poland;

(2) is under the age of 19 years;

- (3) is a student who is enrolled and in good standing at a secondary school in the United States or Poland;
- (4) has been accepted for up to one academic year of study in a program of study abroad approved for credit at such school; and
- (5) meets any other qualifications that the Secretary of State may establish for purposes of the program.
- (e) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Under the youth exchange program, eligible participants selected for participation in the program shall—
- (1) live in and attend a public secondary school in the host country for a period of one academic year;
- (2) while attending public school in the host country, undertake academic studies in the host country, with particular emphasis on the history, constitution, and political development of the host country;
- (3) be eligible, either during or after the completion of such academic studies, for an internship in an appropriate position in the host country; and
- (4) engage in such other activities as the President considers appropriate to achieve the purpose of the program.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives an annual report on the United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program established under this Act. Each annual report shall include—

- (1) information on the implementation of the Program during the preceding year:
- (2) the number of participants in the Program during such year:
- (3) the names and locations of the secondary schools in the United States and Poland attended by such participants;
- (4) a description of the areas of study of such participants during their participation in the Program:
- (5) a description of any internships taken by such participants during their participation in the Program; and
- (6) a description of any other activities such participants carried out during their participation in the Program.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State for fiscal year 2008 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the youth exchange program authorized by this Act.
- (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank our distinguished chairman of the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos), and our senior ranking member, the gentlelady from Florida, for their support and for their leadership in bringing this bill before the floor.

And let me thank our eminent colleague in the other Chamber, the distinguished Senator from Indiana (Senator LUGAR) for his leadership on this important issue. It is exemplary of his sage leadership on so many foreign affairs matters.

Madam Speaker, in 1777, while serving the American cause in Paris, Benjamin Franklin discovered a brilliant Polish military tactician. His name was Casimir Pulaski. A leader in Poland's bitter campaign to beat back Russia, the nobleman Pulaski sacrificed his status in Europe to join the American revolution in the New World. It did not take long for George Washington to recognize the great talent he had on his hands. He promoted Pulaski to brigadier general, placing him in charge of four horse brigades.

Pulaski's prowess and strategic skill during the Revolutionary War became renowned. So dedicated was he to our cause that when funding ran low among the colonials, he used some of his own money to purchase equipment for his men.

General Pulaski, who eventually went down in the history books as the father of the American cavalry, is just one of the many important Polish figures who have contributed greatly to the United States and to the world. The relationship between the people of our two countries has flourished in recent years since the fall of communism, but it actually dates back centuries to the founding of our Nation.

Today, this Congress aims to help the people of Poland rear the next generation of productive, inventive and standout individuals. This bill authorizes an educational exchange program between our two nations that promises to be mutually beneficial and strengthen the alliance between our two nations.

This program will be identical in its structure and operation to the successful Congress-Bundestag exchange that was launched in 1983. Over the last quarter century, thousands of young Americans and Germans have seized the opportunity to spend an academic year living and studying with their foreign peers.

As a result, these secondary school students have gained a better understanding of each other's way of life and have begun developing into citizens of the world. With the authorization and funding of the bilateral initiative before us today, we will extend the same opportunities to our young friends in Poland.

Cross-cultural exchange is the most powerful way of creating harmony among nations. And study abroad programs represent the most powerful type of exchange because they foster understanding and education about other nations at an early age. The country of Poland is one of our most important allies in Europe, has supported us in our fight against terrorism, and stood with us by contributing troops to Afghanistan and Iraq. The Polish people have made great strides since the fall of communism liberalizing their economy, joining NATO in 1999, and becoming a Member of the European Union in 2004.

It is high time that we recognize and advance Poland's place in the world, as well as our special relationship with that nation, by initiating a robust educational exchange program.

Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this proposed bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate bill 377, the United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act.

This bill, introduced by Senator Lugar, and already passed by the Senate in March, would establish a formal parliamentary youth exchange program for American and Polish secondary students. The purpose of this exchange program is to demonstrate the youth of Poland and to the United States the benefits of friendly cooperation based on our shared political and cultural values.

The United States and Poland have enjoyed close bilateral relations since the end of the Cold War. Poland has supported U.S.-led efforts to fight global terrorism, has contributed troops to coalition forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, and has cooperated closely with the United States to promote democracy and human rights around the world and to reform the United Nations.

□ 1100

By focusing on the source of our common future, our young people, this bill will further cement the friendship and the ideals that our two nations already share. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this worthwhile endeavor.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut and a member of the Financial Services and Government Reform Committees, Congressman MURPHY.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today of S. 377, the United States and Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act.

Poland, as has been said by both of our previous speakers, has demonstrated an amazing commitment both to democratic values and to their role as an ally of the United States. I remember, as a teenager, if I might date myself, watching in rapt attention as Lech Walesa and his solidarity movement defeated the Communist Party in Poland in parliamentary elections, and then watching Walesa go on to become president of Poland in 1990. That solidarity movement heralded the collapse of communism across Eastern Europe.

This United States and Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange will allow American students to learn much more about this very important heritage of our neighbors in Eastern Europe. Eligible participants in the program will attend a public high school for one academic year and enroll in courses that place a particular emphasis on their host country's history, the establishment of its Constitution, the nation's birth and its political development.

Though my last name might not give a hint to this, I am a very proud Polish American. My mother's family emigrated from Poland to New Britain, Connecticut some generations ago. And if you have a chance to drive through the great State of Connecticut and you're looking for a great place to grab a bite to eat, stop off in New Britain, Connecticut. Go to Broad Street, where we still have Polish language storefronts selling some of the best Polish food that you'll find in eastern Connecticut.

And I appreciate the gentleman spending a little time remarking about General Pulaski. We take that legacy very seriously in New Britain. We still celebrate Pulaski Day with a Pulaski parade that runs not very far from Pulaski School and ends up at the Pulaski Club. So we are very serious students of Polish history in New Britain, Connecticut, and I can't think of a better program than one such as this that will allow children of a community such as ours in New Britain, whose forefathers came from that country, to be able to go there and strengthen their appreciation for that culture and that country's heritage.

I'd like to thank Representative VIS-CLOSKY, especially, and Representative EMANUEL for bringing this legislation before the House floor today and, of course, Senator LUGAR for being such a champion in the Senate. This will mean a great deal to our small community of New Britain and the entire Polish American community in the Fifth District of Connecticut.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Connecticut and his support and statement. Nothing like having an Irish Polish American to be supportive of his proposed legislation.

Madam Speaker, I would love to yield 5 minutes now to my dear friend, distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY). That's a good Polish name.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 377, the United States and Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act of 2007. I am the sponsor of the House version of this legislation, and I would like to thank my 13 colleagues, including the gentleman from Connecticut, who are cosponsors of the measure.

I would especially like to thank the distinguished senior Senator from the State of Indiana, RICHARD LUGAR, for originating this legislation and introducing it in the other body. And I would be remiss if I did not thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), as well as the ranking member of the full committee, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN), as well as Mr. LANTOS and the members of the committee for their consideration of the measure.

It is my sincere hope that this legislation will become the foundation for future youth exchange programs around the world. As technology and transportation makes the world more and more interconnected, it is essential that our youth and future leaders have firsthand experiences in other cultures when making decisions. A lot can be learned about a different culture from a book or a picture, but it is not nearly the same as living, studying and working in another culture for an entire year, which is what the U.S.-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program will enable youths from American and Polish high schools to do.

Senator Lugar has been a guiding light in promoting cultural exchange programs between America and countless other countries throughout his tenure, and it has been my privilege to work with him on this legislation. The Senator's genuine interest in the cultures of the world is reflected in all his actions, and he understands the priceless value of cultural exchange programs as embodied in the U.S. and Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program. This program will have a profound effect on the youth of our two

countries, and it can only strengthen the unbreakable friendship between the United States and Poland.

I too am very proud of the Polish community in Indiana's First Congressional District. This proud community is an integral part of the greater northwest area community in Indiana, and enhances the culture of my district in countless ways. I am happy that the U.S. and Poland Youth Exchange Program will allow all facets of the Polish culture to be experienced firsthand by American youth.

Madam Speaker, we should not delay in this opportunity for our youth to be immersed in Poland's rich culture and in this opportunity to share our culture with Polish youth. And I would urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for his most eloquent speech.

At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, let me commend Senator LUGAR for this fine legislation. Senator LUGAR is such an outstanding leader.

And I would also like to say that Count Casimir Pulaski was a person, as a historian, that did so much in the Revolutionary War. We actually defeated Cromwell at the major battle.

I had the opportunity also to teach at Pulaski School in New Jersey when I was a school teacher in Passaic, and the Polish community was very strong in that area. And so I learned a lot, from Yak Samas and Dobcha, from my students and their parents.

I think that parliamentary exchanges are outstanding. As we remember Lech Walesa and the solidarity movement, we do see the challenge for the shipyards there in Poland, but hopefully they will be able to sustain themselves. I think that these various types of parliamentary exchanges do a great deal.

I visited Poland in 1967 and went back again in the late 1990s and early 2000 to see the tremendous difference of the 1967 Poland that was drab and going through many, many problems with pollution and the communist system. But with the breakdown of the Warsaw Pact and Poland being able to have democracy, it's really a tremendous country. And as a member of the House Democratic Assistance Corporation here in the House, we certainly strongly push for parliamentary exchanges, and so I certainly support this.

I thank Mr. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill. S. 377.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF DESMOND MPILO TUTU

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 34) recognizing the 75th birthday of Desmond Mpilo Tutu, South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, as amended

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H RES 34

Whereas Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu has been recognized as one of the 20th century's leaders for freedom, justice, and human rights for all:

Whereas Archbishop Tutu, as a religious leader and Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches from 1976 until 1978, worked against apartheid in South Africa with the agreement of nearly all South African churches;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu consistently advocated reconciliation between all parties involved in apartheid and, though he was most firm in denouncing South Africa's white-ruled government, Archbishop Tutu was also harsh in his criticism of the violent tactics of some anti-apartheid groups and denounced terrorism:

Whereas Archbishop Tutu spoke strongly in support of non-violent change and economic sanctions against South Africa and as a result had his passport revoked by the South African Government;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu led a historical march to a whites-only beach, where he and supporters were chased off with whips;

Whereas, on October 16, 1984, Archbishop Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his outstanding leadership, courage, heroism, and use of nonviolence in the struggle against apartheid, and the Nobel Committee cited his "role as a unifying leader figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa";

Whereas a month after winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Archbishop Tutu was elected as the first black Anglican bishop of Johannesburg;

Whereas, on September 7, 1986, Archbishop Tutu became the first black person to lead the Anglican Church in South Africa:

Whereas, in 1994, after the end of apartheid and the election of President Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Tutu was appointed as Chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to investigate apartheid-era crimes, where his policy of forgiveness and reconciliation has become an international example of conflict resolution, and a trusted method of post-conflict reconstruction:

Whereas, on October 7, 1931, Archbishop Tutu was born in Klerksdorp, Transvaal, to a school teacher and an uneducated mother and was educated at Johannesburg Bantu High School; Whereas Archbishop Tutu trained as a high school teacher at Pretoria Bantu Normal College and graduated from the University of South Africa in 1954, and after teaching for three years was ordained as a priest in 1960;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu studied theology in England in 1962, received a Masters of Theology from University of London in 1966, was appointed as the first black South African to hold the position of Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg in 1975, and became the first black General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches in 1978:

Whereas Archbishop Tutu is an international lecturer and philosopher and has received honorary doctorates from ten leading universities in the United States, Britain, and Germany:

Whereas Archbishop Tutu has been awarded a number of prestigious awards, including the Order for Meritorious Award (Gold), the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion, the Prix d'Athene, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award of Annual Black American Heroes and Heroines Day:

Whereas out of deep concern for the challenges facing all of the people of the world, in July 2007 Archbishop Tutu helped assemble The Elders, an historic group of world leaders seeking to contribute their wisdom, independent leadership, and integrity in tackling some of the world's toughest problems;

Whereas October 7, 2007, will mark the 76th birthday of Archbishop Demand Mpilo Tutu;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu has fought for a democratic and just society without racial divisions, a common system of education, a world which promotes the rights and opportunities of the marginalized, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised, and continues to pursue an active international ministry of peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

- (1) honors the accomplishments of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu;
- (2) recognizes and congratulates his consistent efforts to promote dialogue to peacefully resolve conflicts between people in Africa and around the world; and
- (3) extols the contributions of Archbishop Tutu to South Africa, the United States, and the international community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, again I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like again to thank our distinguished chairman of

the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos), and our senior ranking member of the committee, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) for their support in bringing this legislation to the floor.

I would particularly like to thank my distinguished colleague, the chief sponsor of this legislation, the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. Jackson-Lee) for introducing this important resolution to honor Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa for his lifetime of human rights work.

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Tutu is unquestionably one of the most important and accomplished advocates of human rights and peace on the face of this planet. In the past few years, Bishop Tutu has worked tirelessly to promote religious freedom and self-sovereignty around the world, using his reputation and his work in South Africa as a launching pad to do good. For instance, he has worked to highlight the horrendous human rights situation in Burma and repeatedly called on the Burmese Government to free the champion of democracy there, Aung San Suu Kyi.

But of all his work for humankind, he is perhaps best known for chairing the South Africa Peace and Reconciliation Commission after the scourge of apartheid ended in that nation.

Under the rule of the Afrikaner Nationalist Party, black South Africans were subjected to unspeakable dehumanizing social policies and draconian laws. These terrible measures separated families, denied a decent education to millions of children, and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes into segregated territories, or bantustans.

Given the nature of the oppression, South Africa could have been a country washed in blood by black Africans seeking revenge once white minority rule ended. But through his characteristic patience and wisdom, Bishop Tutu helped guide South Africans, black, brown and white, through a national process of reconciliation, a forum where the horrors of apartheid were told by both victims and perpetrators. And most importantly, there was no retribution, only truth and reconciliation.

Bishop Tutu and his colleagues traveled throughout South Africa, from village to village, and allowed apartheid's victims to speak as long as they needed to tell their stories. For days at a time he sat and listened to stories of the hellish nightmare innocent victims of apartheid had to endure.

The process of simply telling proved an enormous healing experience for individuals in the South African nation. And the stories have been archived so that South Africans in the future can know their past and can appreciate their present.

This effort, and his spiritual leadership throughout the trying times of his nation made Bishop Tutu an international hero. He is a human rights champion and has been the winner of numerous awards, including the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Bishop Tutu's 76th birthday next month, we should be mindful of the lessons he has brought in his service to mankind, particularly in this troubling time when human rights violations are still so widespread around the world.

As he said famously in his Nobel Peace acceptance speech, "Oppression dehumanizes the oppressor as much as, if not more, the oppressed."

That axiom, to me, Madam Speaker, is a profound admonition to tyrants around the world.

And I cannot help, Madam Speaker, but to say that if you say something about Bishop Tutu, you have to add his colleague, Nelson Mandela. Now here was a man that was in prison for 29 years, almost 30 years. And you would think that there is nothing on his mind than to seek vengeance and retribution against what the apartheid government did to him for all those years, but instead, as far as I'm concerned, the most Christ-like person that has ever come out of that prison, Mr. Mandela, and for the leadership that he displayed in bringing all different factions, nationalities and ethnicities in South Africa together to build a good nation.

I remember years ago, Madam Speaker, the World Cup. I don't know if my colleagues are familiar with the sport of rugby, but the World Cup rugby tournament is on in France right now. Years ago, the all-black rugby national team representing New Zealand had a very difficult time playing against the Spring Boks from South Africa, especially if they had an Amari Polynesian or a Samoan Polynesian as a member of that all-blacks team. The Spring Boks of South Africa refused to play the all-blacks of New Zealand simply because there are two people of color that are members of the team representing New Zealand. They got the two countries pretty heated at times. There was no question about the bigotry and the racism that existed at that time as far as apartheid is concerned.

□ 1115

Madam Speaker, today we honor Bishop Desmond Tutu and all that he represents, and I call on my colleagues to vote to support this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume

Madam Speaker, I rise today also in support of House Resolution 34, which honors the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa; and an outspoken advocate for peace, equality, and human rights around the globe.

While Archbishop Tutu is regarded by some as a controversial figure, he is universally recognized as a hero in the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa. There he served as a beacon of hope, committed to peace and unity in an era marked by violence and oppression. He passionately advocated for nonviolent opposition to the racist apartheid regime while campaigning internationally for the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa.

And even in the face of the most egregious human rights abuses reinforced by draconian laws, including the Population Registration Act of 1950, the Group Areas Act of 1950, the Lands Act of 1954 and 1955, and the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act of 1970, he inspired disenfranchised South Africans to believe that one day justice would prevail and freedom would come.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank my colleague and dear friend from Florida for her statement in support of this resolution.

At this time, Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I yield 5 minutes to my good friend, the chief sponsor of this proposed bill, the gentlewoman from Texas, senior member of the Judiciary Committee and also a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (Ms. Jackson-Lee).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me, first of all, thank my distinguished colleague, the manager of the bill and a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman FALEOMAVAEGA, for the very kind words that he has offered; and to the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her supporting words; and chiefly two very important persons who have assisted in this legislation, Chairman Lantos for his support and the very excellent committee staff that have supported us, along with our dear subcommittee Chair, Donald Payne, who is renowned for his commitment to Africa, and certainly we appreciate his friendship and support of this legislation.

Might I acknowledge the cosponsors who were eager to join to recognize this distinguished but bountiful with words and compassion in his small package of a man but yet his gigantic heart, mind, and spirit, Bishop Mpilo Tutu, who, as you can see, is a man that commands thousands for his vision.

We are proud to be able to, nearing the 76th birthday, acknowledge his 75th birthday and his 75th year. So might I also express appreciation for my staff, Yahannus Tsahani and Nina Besser, for their help in this legislation.

Let me say to you, Madam Speaker, that Archbishop Tutu was not lost with words or passion. He said, "I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I

want the full menu of rights." He is a man of immense courage and vision. He has long served as the moral voice of the oppressed populations. No one who has ever met, spoken to, or worked with Archbishop Tutu is the same afterwards.

He is, of course, linked with Father Mandela, arm in arm as Father Mandela maintained his life and his integrity for 29 years. It was Bishop Tutu who had a voice, steering the religious and faith community away from its closed attitude to open to the Beatitudes, that, in fact, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Bishop Tutu believed in that.

As a tireless advocate for ending discrimination, Desmond Tutu's career is truly extraordinary. In 1975 he became the first black African Dean of Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg, South Africa. From 1976 to 1978, he served as the Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches, once again being the first black African to do so. He went on to head South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1996 to 1998, investigating prior apartheid-related crimes.

It would be interesting if we were at that point in Iraq, but we must set the picture of what it means to bring together a commission that addresses the pain and hurt, brutality and devastation of black Africans, South Africans, at the hands of apartheid. It was not easy. It would have been better to sit in accusatory fashion, point fingers, and never resolve. But it was the calm demeanor, the spirit, the religious faith of Bishop Tutu that allowed this process to go forward and to allow it to go forward as others have now looked back and said, well done, well done.

Archbishop Tutu is perhaps best known for his courageous opposition to the internationally condemned apartheid regime that persisted in his homeland until democratic elections were finally held in 1994. It was for his nonviolent struggle in opposition to apartheid that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 in recognition of his courage, heroism, and peaceful methods. The Nobel committee called him a "unifying leader-figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa." The committee went on to state, "the means by which this campaign is conducted is of vital importance for the whole of the continent of Africa and for the cause of peace in the world." In a press release discussing the award, the Nobel committee wrote, "This year's award should be seen as a renewed recognition of the courage and heroism shown by black South Africans in their use of peaceful methods in the struggle against apartheid."

How wonderful it would be if the conflicts around the world and in the Middle East would follow this straight and narrow path of a peaceful opposition.

"This recognition is also directed to all who throughout the world use such methods to stand in the vanguard of the campaign for racial equality as a human right."

In recognition of his vast intellectual ability, Desmond Tutu has received numerous honorary doctorates from several universities, including Harvard, Kent, Columbia, Aberdeen, and Howard. Let me also indicate as well that he has won the Order of Meritorious Gold Award; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize; and a number of others.

He has also been a survivor of cancer. He is someone who has never stopped teaching, working, and understanding.

And for those of us who are products of America's civil rights movement, I thought would be appropriate to bring to light and to attention the reflection of two giants: Rosa Parks and Archbishop Tutu, to bring together the trials and tribulations, the struggles of African Americans in the United States with someone who fully understood what struggle was all about.

I am delighted to join with my colleagues asking for your full support in honoring Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, a man who stood between the schism of two oceans, bringing America and Africa together through the idea of unity, peace, generosity, justice, and opportunity for all.

Congratulations, Bishop Tutu. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 34, which honors the life and accomplishments of Desmond Mpilo Tutu, South African Archbishop of Cape Town and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. I have been pleased to work with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on this important legislation, and I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS for his support for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Tutu once stated, "I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights." He is a man of immense courage and vision, and he has long served as the moral voice of oppressed populations. No one who has ever met, spoken to, or worked with Archbishop Tutu is the same afterwards.

As a tireless advocate of ending discrimination, Desmond Tutu's career is truly extraordinary. In 1975, he became the first black African Dean of Mary's Cathedral, in Johannesburg, South Africa. From 1976–1978, he served as the Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches; once again, being the first black African to do so. He went on to head South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1996–1998, investigating prior apartheid related crimes.

Archbishop Tutu is perhaps best known for his courageous opposition to the internationally-condemned apartheid regime that persisted in his homeland until democratic elections were finally held in 1994. It was for his non-violent struggle in opposition to apartheid that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, in recognition of his courage, heroism, and peaceful methods. The Nobel committee called him a "unifying leader-figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa." The committee went on to

state, "the means by which this campaign is conducted is of vital importance for the whole of the continent of Africa and for the cause of peace in the world." In a press release discussing the award, the Nobel committee wrote, "This year's award should be seen as a renewed recognition of the courage and heroism shown by black South Africans in their use of peaceful methods in the struggle against apartheid. This recognition is also directed to all who, throughout the world, use such methods to stand in the vanguard of the campaign for racial equality as a human right."

In recognition of his vast intellectual ability, Desmond Tutu has received numerous honorary doctorates from several universities including Harvard, Kent, Colombia, Aberdeen, and Howard. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Archbishop Tutu has received numerous other prestigious awards, including the Order of Meritorious Gold Award, Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion, Prix d'Athene, Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, Maguebela Prize for Liberty, as well as the International Gandhi Peace Prize.

Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu will celebrate his 76th birthday on October 7, 2007. This legislation recognizes this important date, honors his accomplishments, and extols the contributions that he has made to South Africa, the United States, and to the international community.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of this truly extraordinary man. I conclude with another quote from Archbishop Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." Archbishop Tutu has spent his life in defense of the mouse, and his work has proven that, with proper pressure and leverage, the elephant can be forced to move.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In recognition of his efforts to peacefully protest an immoral and unjust system while leading some 20 million South Africans toward freedom. Desmond Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. In presenting the award, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee recognized that the repression of the apartheid regime was so brutal that "a violent rebellion would be an understandable reaction." However, he stated, that on a broad front a campaign that is being fought with the weapons of spirit and reason, a campaign for truth, freedom, and justice, the contribution that Desmond Tutu has made and is still making represents a hope for the future. He is an exponent of the only form of conflict solving which is worthy of civilized nations.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield 5 minutes to my good friend and senior member of our Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, let me thank Mr. Lantos and Ms. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and the floor manager, Mr. Faleomavaega, for bringing this resolution forward, but certainly to the sponsor, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, for her outstanding work that she does on the Africa Subcommittee.

I rise to speak in support of H. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 75th birthday of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Archbishop Tutu will celebrate his 76th birthday on October 7 of this year, and the legacy he has created during three-quarters of a century on this Earth is truly inspiring.

It is no exaggeration to say that without his courage, commitment, and leadership, the South Africa we know today may not exist. For over four decades, Bishop Tutu was a vocal advocate and activist for democracy and human rights in South Africa. He defended the rights of not only black South Africans but for brown and white South Africans as well. As I mentioned earlier, Senator LUGAR gave the deciding vote to override the veto of President Reagan of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, which therefore put sanctions on South Africa, which helped to move towards a free, democratic South Africa, nonracial.

Archbishop Tutu's support for regime change through reconciliation between the different ethnic groups in South Africa is well known and I believe should serve as a model not only in Africa but in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

And I believe that his work as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped prevent open violence and bloodshed in South Africa in the wake of apartheid following it. Truly Archbishop Tutu practiced what he preached.

What amazes me about Bishop Tutu is his tireless effort on behalf of those who are disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and disposed. Many men would have taken a rest after seeing a vision they worked so hard to achieve come to fruition. But not him. Not Bishop Tutu. He continues to advocate for people around the world from West Papua to Zimbahwe

He has led efforts to bring attention to the spread of HIV/AIDS and the dangers of extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis, XDR. As a matter of fact, Bishop Tutu wrote me a letter in February bringing out the fact that 50 people of 53 in South Africa died from this disease, and I had a hearing long before the person of the United States traveled around the world with this XDR, drug-resistant, TB. So it was Bishop Tutu that brought it to my attention. As a matter of fact, we raised it with the Foreign Operations appropriations committee, and we were able to increase the funding for this disease by \$50 million in this year's appropriations bill. The MDR- and the XDR-TB are things where it was Bishop Tutu who brought it to our attention.

His latest endeavor will be to serve as chairman of the Council of Elders, a group formed by the former South African President Nelson Mandela this past July. Bishop Tutu worked with Reverend Allan Boesak years ago and Mr. Oliver Tambo, who was chairman of the ANC.

Archbishop Tutu's tireless work on behalf of the people of South Africa and, indeed, the world is awe inspiring.

□ 1130

He should serve as an example to all of us of what compassion and commitment can achieve. I congratulate him on his life work and salute him on the occasion of his birthday.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Following the dismantling of the apartheid regime and the conduct of South Africa's first democratically contested multi-party elections in 1994, Archbishop Tutu was appointed to share South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Tasked with investigating the gross human rights violations that had occurred over the preceding 34 years, it was feared that the TRC would reopen old wounds and once again plunge the country into crisis. However, Archbishop Tutu used this platform to urge forgiveness and reconciliation rather than revenge for past injustices. It, therefore, comes as no surprise that South Africa's TRC now serves as a model for post-conflict resolutions around the globe. And at nearly 76 years of age, Archbishop Tutu has not slowed down a bit. Given his continued advocacy for peace and human rights in Africa and beyond, it is appropriate that this body honor him again today.

I would like to thank the sponsor, Ms. Jackson-Lee, for introducing this important resolution and for agreeing to changes so that it reflects a celebration of his upcoming 76th birthday, which will be celebrated by all of us on October 7.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to bring House Resolution 34 to the floor today. And I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on its passage.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVÄEGA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on this proposed bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 34, as amended.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution recognizing the life and accomplishments of Desmond Mpilo Tutu, South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE STRONG SECURITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 508) recognizing the strong security alliance between the Government of Japan and the United States and expressing appreciation to Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region and its efforts in the global war against terrorism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 508

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of United States security interests in Asia and the Pacific and is fundamental to regional stability and prosperity;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance continues to be based on shared vital interests and values in the Asia-Pacific region, despite the changes in the post-cold war strategic landscape, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, support for human rights and democratic institutions, and securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community;

Whereas on April 27, 2007, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Washington, President Bush and the Prime Minister reconfirmed their commitment to these common strategic objectives;

Whereas Japan provides military bases and generous financial and material support to United States forward-deployed forces, which are essential for maintaining stability in the region;

Whereas under the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, Japan hosts a carrier battle group, the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the 5th Air Force:

Whereas the United States currently maintains approximately 50,000 troops in Japan, about half of whom are stationed in Okinawa:

Whereas over the past decade the alliance has been strengthened through revised Defense Guidelines (which expand Japan's noncombat role in a regional contingency) and the continued renewal of Japan's Host Nation Support of United States forces stationed in Japan;

Whereas in 2005, the two allies agreed on a redefinition of roles, missions, and capabilities of alliance forces, which further deepens interoperability and coordination between the Japanese Self Defense Forces (SDF) and United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the agreement also provided for reducing the number of troops stationed in Okinawa and broadening our cooperation in the area of ballistic missile defense (BMD);

Whereas in May 2007, the United States and Japan confirmed that, as both countries develop and deploy capabilities, every effort must be made to ensure tactical, operational, and strategic coordination, including ballistic missile threats against alliance interests;

Whereas after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Japan has participated significantly in international efforts to combat

terrorism by providing major logistical support for United States and coalition forces in the Indian Ocean in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas Japan has also provided troops, aircraft, and logistical support for Operation Iraqi Freedom, a commitment which the Japanese Government recently renewed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that Japan is one of the most reliable security partners of the United States:

(2) commends the Government of Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific Region; and

(3) expresses appreciation to the Government of Japan for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this proposed bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to the leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the distinguished chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos), and our distinguished ranking member, Ms. Rostehtineen from Florida, for their support of this proposed bill.

And let me also thank our distinguished colleague from the great State of New Jersey, a senior member of the Armed Services Committee as well as the Natural Resources Committee, my good friend, Mr. SAXTON, for his sponsorship of this resolution.

When World War II came to a close, the relationship between the United States and Japan could not have been worse. Both sides sustained heavy human losses at the hands of the other's military, but together, starting in the late 1940s, the United States and the Japanese people rebuilt a war-torn Japanese nation brick by brick, industry by industry. The alliance between the United States and Japan has grown steadily since then, and now it could hardly be stronger.

Japan today is one of our closest allies in the Asia-Pacific region. The strong and enduring partnership we developed when that war thankfully came to an end bridges economic, military and political realms. Our military alliance helped prevent another world conflict during the Cold War, and our two nations jointly held fast to the

ideas of democracy and freedom in the face of the menacing communist threat in this Asian region.

Today, the U.S. military security alliance with Japan is not only just the backbone of the relationship between our two great nations, but it is the bedrock of peace and security throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Upon this foundation, we continue to work together to advance our shared values. We jointly promote open markets, open societies, and open and transparent governments in Asia and around the world. Japan's economic success is a beacon and an example to the entire planet, now being the second most powerful economy in the whole world. We also tackle some of the most difficult challenges of our time, working together in the crucial Six-Party Talks to denuclearize North Korea and stabilize Northeast Asia.

Japan is a reliable and generous friend, quick to assist the United States in our times of need. Japan has provided important logistical support for the current war in Iraq and is on the front lines of the international efforts to combat terrorism by providing support to operations in Afghanistan.

As strong as our relationship is now, we look forward to an even stronger partnership in the future. Our two countries are brought together by shared interests and shared values, and we are bound together by mutual respect and friendship.

This resolution celebrates this friendship by recognizing the strong security alliance between Japan and the United States, as well as Japan's critical role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Today, the House reaffirms that we value highly our alliance with the great nation of Japan and believe this partnership will continue indefinitely into the future.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to first rise in support of House Resolution 508, introduced by my good friend, Mr. SAXTON of New Jersey, and I would like to congratulate him for offering this resolution before us today because the United States security objectives in the Asia-Pacific region could not be achieved without the staunch support of our friends and allies in Tokyo. The United States-Japan alliance is, as this resolution recognizes, the cornerstone of regional stability and prosperity.

When Pyongyang tested a nuclear weapon last fall, we relied heavily on our good friend, Japan, which was then serving as president of the U.N. Security Council. Together, we achieved passage of Security Council Resolution 1718 condemning North Korea's reckless action and imposing a series of

sanctions. We must continue to work with Tokyo to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis in order to ensure regional peace and stability.

Japan has also been an irreplaceable partner in support of our efforts to fight global terrorism. Also, in the year 2002, Tokyo graciously offered to host the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan following the ouster of the Taliban regime.

We are also very grateful to Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Forces for continuing to provide logistical support in the Indian Ocean to coalition efforts waging the international war on terrorism

Most recently, the Japanese Diet approved a 2-year extension of the Special Measures Law in Iraq which provides continued funding for the reconstruction of a peaceful and stable Iraq. It was also recently reported that three Japanese banks have stopped engaging any new business with Iran, and that Japanese financial institutions are restricting loans and rejecting an Iranian request to pay for oil imports in currencies other than dollars.

We are proud of the U.S.-Japan alliance and deeply grateful for the friendship of the people of Japan. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, Madam Speaker, which is of vital importance to the security of both the United States and Japan.

Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this resolution, Mr. SAXTON of New Jersey.

Mr. SAXTON. Let me thank the gentlelady for yielding. And let me begin by thanking my good friend and colleague, Chairman Tom Lantos, for the great high level of cooperation that was exhibited on this resolution on a bipartisan basis with Ms. Ros-Lehtinen and others. And also, let me acknowledge the great support of my friend, Mr. Faleomavaega, on the resolution

I rise today in support of House Resolution 508, obviously, which recognizes the strong security alliance between Japan and the United States and expresses appreciation for Japan's role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region in combating terrorism, and specifically in Japan's very significant contribution toward global missile defense.

I am pleased to highlight our special relationship with Japan following World War II. Our alliance has served as a valuable conduit allowing the United States to achieve our security goals throughout East Asia. This dynamic nation is the world's second largest economy, one of our top trading partners, provides 600,000 U.S. jobs, and is actively engaged with many other democracies.

Our two countries have encountered similar challenges and fought shared threats while working to guarantee political and economic freedoms for our citizens and for many others. This goal

of spreading democracy-based prosperity became particularly evident following the events of September 11. Following these deplorable acts, Japan readily provided support for U.S. and allied forces. Their effort included invaluable maritime operations in the Indian Ocean, aircraft to conduct support missions for our troops in Iraq, and logistical support that even continues to this very day. These actions reveal Japan's dedication to eradicating the destruction caused by sponsors of terrorism. Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Forces have provided roughly 30 percent of the fuel used by U.S. and coalition warships. They are the third largest donor in country for relief and reconstruction in Afghanistan, and they have provided billions of dollars for reconstruction in Iraq, and Japan continues to renew the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law that allows for these activities to take place.

I applaud them for recognizing that the international threats of terror will require the cooperation of the world's strongest democracies to effectively combat the growing capabilities and support systems of terrorist organizations.

Our strategic relationship extends beyond Japan's involvement in the Middle East. Japan offers financial and material resources to the U.S.-deployed forces, 50,000 of which are stationed in the country.

Several years ago, our two countries agreed to redefine and strengthen the missions of both of our military forces. My resolution mentions examples of this coordination by reducing the number of troops in Okinawa and expanding the cooperation of ballistic missile defense.

Once again, I want to reiterate my thanks to Chairman Lantos and Ranking Member ILEANA Ros-Lehtinen for their assistance in bringing this to the floor today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from American Samoa has $16\frac{1}{2}$ minutes remaining.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I would like to have as much time as I may consume to again compliment and to commend my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, for his insight.

And certainly as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, no one knows better the importance of our strategic and military influence in this important region of the world, and especially with an alliance and a partnership with the great country of Japan, that they have always stood beside us and always been there when we needed assistance.

So again, I want to commend my good friend from New Jersey for his comments and sponsorship of this legislation. And I thank my good friend,

the gentlelady from Florida, the ranking member, for helping us manage this legislation and get it approved by our colleagues.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 508, which recognizes the strong security alliance between the Government of Japan and the United States and expresses our country's appreciation to Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region and also for their efforts in the global war on terrorism. I commend Mr. SAXTON for authoring this resolution and for the support by the leadership to bring this resolution up for our consideration.

On October 29, 2005, the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan entered into a renewed Security Consultative Agreement that calls for a major realignment of U.S.-Japan strategic alliance. This agreement continues Japan's strategic role for the security of the region in cooperation with the United States. In addition, the agreement will realign our U.S. forces within Japan and throughout the Pacific so that the U.S. is better positioned to respond militarily to incidents in Asia and the Pacific.

Incidentally, under the agreement, the U.S. territory of Guam could become the new home to elements of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. It is projected that nearly 8,000 active duty Marines and their dependents will be relocated from Okinawa to Guam.

As you know, Madam Speaker, our U.S. territories fall under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee, specifically under the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. As chairman of the Subcommittee, I had the unique opportunity to travel to Japan and to the Pacific over the August recess to convene a field hearing on Guam on the proposed U.S. military buildup and the challenges the island's community will face due to the impact of relocating so many U.S. forces.

I was impressed by briefings we held with U.S. Navy ADM William French and U.S. Air Force BG Douglas Owens. Both were extremely forthright about the strategic value of Guam in defending our Nation and developing relationships and training opportunities with our allies, including Japan, so that our interests in the Asia-Pacific region are secured. In fact, while in Guam, our military was conducting "Operation Valiant Shield" which was a military exercise between our forces and those of our allies in the Pacific and Asia.

I was equally impressed with the patriotism of the people of Guam and the support they have shown for the relocation. This is not to say that there are no concerns throughout the community on what the impact of Marines will mean to the services provided to the Government of Guam. Any community would have concerns on education, healthcare, law enforcement, infrastructure, etc. It is my hope that as the buildup continues, the Congress will consider these impacts on the island community and work to mitigate such problems for the benefit of the community "outside the gates."

On my return from Guam, I also had the opportunity to meet with officials from the Japanese Defense and Foreign Ministries to be briefed on their progress in the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan. In addition to meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Haneda, we were informed by the Senior Coordinator for Japan-U.S. Security Affairs, Keiichi Ono and

the Deputy Director General for Realignment Initiatives Daikichi Momma and their team, that Japan is moving forward with the things they need to do to fully implement the realignment and that they would be mindful to take into account concerns raised about the impact of the realignment on the territory and people of Guam.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to express my appreciation and that of my constituents to the people of Japan for their continued strong alliance and for their role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region and their efforts in the global war on terrorism. I urge my colleagues to support adoption of H. Res. 508.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Resolution 508, recognizing the strong security alliance between the Government of Japan and the United States and expressing appreciation to Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific Region and its efforts in the global war against terrorism.

The Government of Japan, crucial to stabilizing the Asia-Pacific Region, has for decades served as a cornerstone for U.S. national security posture worldwide. I expect our governments to remain strong allies long into the future. The Government of Japan's efforts in support of the global war against terrorism are commendable and serve as a superb model for other governments to emulate.

The people of Guam, who I represent in Congress, enjoy a robust relationship with the Japanese people. Many residents on Guam are of Japanese descent. Also, Guam hosts over a million Japanese tourists each year and we welcome more. Japanese companies make significant investments in Guam's telecommunications infrastructure and in our tourism and hospitality industry. Moreover, Guam's relationship with the Japanese people and their government will grow stronger in the years to come. The Government of Japan will, in large part, finance the planned re-location of elements of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa to Guam. What is more, the future military training exercises on and in the waters around Guam will include greater numbers of Japanese Self-Defense Force personnel.

I welcome all efforts that strengthen the security relationship that exists between the United States and the Japan. I strongly support this resolution recognizing the valuable security alliance between the Government of Japan and the United States and expressing appreciation to Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific Region and its efforts in the global war against terrorism. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. Faleomavaega) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 508, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and navs.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1145

COMMENDING THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT THE OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JOR-CONTINUED DANFORTHEIR COMMITMENT TOHOLDING ELECTIONS AND BROADENING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 575) commending the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 575

Whereas on June 17, 2003, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan held parliamentary elections, the fourth since 1989, and the first during the reign of His Majesty King Abdullah II.

Whereas His Majesty King Abdullah II has announced that the next parliamentary elections in Jordan will be held November 20, 2007.

Whereas municipal elections for the local councils were held on July 31, 2007, under a new reformed municipal elections law passed on February 4, 2007, under which the mayors and councils of all municipalities in Jordan were elected:

Whereas the new reformed municipal elections law includes a 20 percent quota for women in the council seats and reduces the age of eligible voters from 19 to 18 years of age in order to expand the voter base;

Whereas with the direct assistance of the United States Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Jordan has placed great emphasis in recent years on the rights of women to vote and run for public office, thereby serving as a model for other countries in the region;

Whereas the people and the Government of Jordan are committed to continuing this progress;

Whereas His Majesty King Abdullah II recently emphasized the importance of building a thriving civil society when he declared, "We in Jordan—and many others, throughout the Middle East—are working hard to create a civic environment in which our people will thrive. The basic requirement is an inclusive, democratic civil society—one that guarantees rights, delegates responsibilities, honors merit and rewards achievement. The foundation stones on which we build are peace and stability, basic civil and political rights, essential services, freedom of expression and the rule of law."; and

Whereas Jordan continues to invest in reforming its educational system to incorporate democratic values and principles: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Majesty King Abdullah II for their decision to conduct municipal and parliamentary elections in 2007;

- (2) expresses its desire that Jordan's progress toward democratization continue and flourish as a model for other Arab countries:
- (3) commends His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Jordanian people for striving to uphold women's rights and enhance women's participation in the political process;
- (4) reaffirms the special relationship that exists between the people of the United States and the people of Jordan; and
- (5) remains committed to assist Jordan , should it so desire, in promoting democratic reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this proposed resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again my appreciation and gratitude to the leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the distinguished chairman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen), the senior ranking member of the committee, for their support and leadership in bringing this proposed legislation before the floor. I also would like to thank the chief sponsor of this proposed bill, my good friend from the State of Washington (Mr. BAIRD), for introducing this thoughtful and timely measure commending the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on its commitment to holding elections and to broadening its sphere of political participation in its country.

The Kingdom of Jordan is an oasis of stability in the Middle Eastern desert full of difficulties and crises. Jordan is beset by most of the same threats that confront the whole Middle Eastern region, such as terrorism and extremism, but it also faces some distinct challenges. For example, a flood of Iraqi asylum-seekers numbering nearly 1 million. These refugees are now straining the infrastructure of a resource-poor nation of only 6 million citizens.

Despite these difficult challenges, and unlike other regional states that use Islamic extremism as an excuse to restrict democratic freedoms, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has courageously taken significant steps to broaden political participation. At the same time, it continues to hold the line against terrorism. This balance is exemplary.

Madam Speaker, Jordan has long been a leader in the Arab world in enhancing women's political involvement, and it is continuing along that path. Thanks to recent reform, 20 percent of the municipal council seats determined in Jordan's July elections were reserved for women. Jordan also lowered its voting age to 18 in order to involve more people in the election process.

As you know, Madam Speaker, there some controversy surrounding these recent municipal elections. The Islamists withdrew their candidates 1 day before the vote, claiming that the system was unfairly stacked against them. However, based on the evidence I have been able to gather from the State Department and from other staffers who visited Jordan shortly after the elections, these elections were largely free and fair, marred only by minor irregularities that almost certainly had little or no impact on the final result. It now appears the Islamists were more concerned about an embarrassing, imminent defeat than they were about democratic procedures.

Last month, after the municipal elections, King Abdullah II announced that parliamentary elections will be held on November 20. Thus, Jordan continues to pursue its path toward greater democracy.

It is indeed impressive that Jordan keeps extremism at bay while expanding political participation. But it is no coincidence. By addressing reform, Jordan has encouraged moderation. That is a lesson that, unfortunately, too many Middle Eastern regimes have failed to understand.

We encourage Jordan in its efforts to implement political reform, and we look forward to the kingdom's further progress towards achieving the comprehensive and ambitious set of goals it put forth last year as part of Jordan's National Agenda.

Madam Speaker, King Abdullah's thoughtful and bold leadership has made him a welcome ally in difficult times in the Middle East, and the American and Jordanian peoples share a special friendship that this bill explicitly reaffirms.

I know that the Foreign Affairs Committee, of which I am a member, and its distinguished chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos), remain committed to this special relationship with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I trust that my friends in the full House do as well.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 575, which commends the people and the Government of Jordan for their commitment to democracy. Today, much of the Middle East is sadly pervaded by tyranny, radical and extremist Islam, terrorism and hatred of the United States and Israel. However, Jordan continues to stand out as a nation committed to moderation, to modernity, to democracy and to peace with the United States and Israel.

Madam Speaker, Jordan has taken the road less traveled in the Middle East, demonstrating to other nations the benefits of embracing democratic principles as the norm. Since 1989, Jordan has held four elections for its parliament, and King Abdullah has committed to holding the next set of elections by November of this year. Under a new election law passed in February, Jordanians went to the polls in late July, for the first time, to elect the mayors and the councils of every city and town in that country.

Jordan has also recognized that democracy is much more than just holding elections. The Jordanian Government is acting to establish the rule of law, to build a civil society, to build strong institutions and to broaden political participation to meaningfully engage citizens from all walks of life.

One example of this commitment, Madam Speaker, is the decision of the Government of Jordan to lower the voting age from 19 to 18 and to mandate that women fill at least 20 percent of council seats. This is a positive first step, and I hope that it will lead to further reforms and political participation.

King Abdullah himself has courageously spoken out and led the way for reform. King Abdullah recently stated, "We in Jordan, and many others throughout the Middle East, are working hard to create a civic environment in which our people will thrive. The basic requirement is an inclusive, democratic civil society, one that guarantees rights, delegates responsibilities, honors merit, and rewards achievement. The foundation stones on which we build are peace and stability, basic civil and political rights, essential services, freedom of expression and the rule of law."

Madam Speaker, a stable, peaceful and free Middle East is in the interests of the United States and indeed the entire world. And while much remains to be done, Jordan is serving as a model for other nations. It deserves our friendship and encouragement.

House Resolution 575 is particularly important. It expresses the House's desire that Jordan's progress toward democracy continues and flourishes as a model for other Arab countries. It also commends King Abdullah and the Jordanian people for upholding women's rights and enhancing the participation of women in the political process.

Finally, Madam Speaker, it reaffirms the special relationship that exists between the citizens of our two nations, as well as our ongoing commitment to helping Jordan, should it so desire, in promoting democratic reform.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this measure, Madam Speaker, and I urge

my colleagues to render their full support for its adoption.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I yield 6 minutes to my good friend and the chief sponsor of this proposed bill, the gentleman from Washington BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, it is indeed an honor for me to be here along with such distinguished colleagues giving just praise and recognition to a nation which is a leader in a very, very difficult environment. I want to thank Ms. Ros-Lehtinen and the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa, and I particularly want to thank the chairman of the committee. Mr. Lantos, for supporting and introducing this resolution.

We all know the Middle East is a region which is fraught with difficulties. If ever there is a region that needs and deserves models of courage, integrity and vision that is such a region, and if ever there were such models of integrity, vision and courage, Jordan and King Abdullah II are precisely those models.

In the most recent municipal elections, we saw not only a commitment to democratic reforms, but a commitment to moving forward with women's rights, and as many of us who have had the privilege traveling to Jordan know, the kingdom has been a real leader in this region, not only in promoting democratic reforms, but seeing that women are promoted to high positions of office within the cabinet and within the Parliament. It is a lesson that not only nations within the Middle East but within the world at large could henefit from

In addition, the Kingdom of Jordan and King Abdullah II have led efforts to try to bring Islamic scholars from around the world to craft new visions for modern, pluralistic, tolerant and progressive visions of Islam, and the Oman declaration, which does not get nearly the attention it deserves, has been, I think, a visionary statement guiding and inspiring many people throughout the region.

In addition, I think it is worth saying that the Kingdom of Jordan has stepped up to try to help in the region. As we deal with the conflict in Iraq, they have provided valuable training to the Iraqi police and others. One of the challenges Jordan faces right now is the influx of nearly 1 million refugees, as was mentioned. This is a country that faces challenges in terms of energy costs, water availability, et cetera, and still, with all the challenges they face, they have reached out to try to assist others

We have talked a lot in this body and elsewhere about the need for models in the Middle East in the hope that Iraq could one day become a model of democracy. I certainly share that hope. But I would say to my colleagues, we already have some very, very good

models in that region, and it is deserved that we would commend them and recognize them today. Jordan is precisely such a model. King Abdullah is precisely such a leader.

I am grateful that my colleagues today would take the time and the effort to recognize such achievements by such a courageous leader in such a wonderful country.

I would urge my colleagues to visit Jordan, to meet with their King, with the members of their Parliament and their cabinet officials, and I am sure they will share my sense of deep admiration and respect for what has been happening there.

So I urge passage of this legislation. I hope it marks a positive step, not only in recognition of Jordan, but a step in which this body finds ways to acknowledge the many positive achievements that are taking place in a region which we all know has many difficulties. But if we only focus on the difficulties or the bad news and we neglect the good news and the accomplishments, particularly when they are achieved by nations and individuals of such prestige and courage as Jordan, we would be missing a golden opportunity.

Thankfully, today, this House of Representatives will not miss that opportunity. We will acknowledge and recognize the recent elections and reforms by the Kingdom of Jordan and extend a hand of friendship and admiration to all the people of Jordan and to King Abdullah II himself.

With that, I thank all of those who cosponsored this legislation on both sides of the aisle. It truly has been a bipartisan effort.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this fine resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I commend my good friend. the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 575, as amended.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1200

PERCY SUTTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the bill (H.R. 954) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 365 West 125th Street in New York, New York, as the "Percy Sutton Post Office Build-

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 954

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. PERCY SUTTON POST OFFICE BUILD-ING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 365 West 125th Street in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Percy Sutton Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Percy Sutton Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORE-LAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 954, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 365 West 125th Street in New York City as the Percy Sutton Post Office Building. This measure, which has the support of the New York delegation, was unanimously reported from our committee on July 19, 2007.

Madam Speaker, I have many remarks that I can make about Mr. Sutton, somebody that I don't know but read about as a young man growing up in, of all places, Massachusetts and then Vermont. But whatever I say is not worth listening to when we have another member of the New York delegation, remarkable in his own right, who actually knows Mr. Sutton and I expect is going to share some of his good qualities and be somewhat silent on anything else that may not be appropriate stories about the interactions of these two terrific men.

So I am going to reserve my time, and when the appropriate moment comes, allow the distinguished Member from New York to speak on behalf of the merits of Mr. Sutton, where he will be forever commemorated by having his name on a post office in the great city of New York.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Percy Sutton, a noted civil rights activist, lawyer and entrepreneur, has had numerous achievements in his lifetime. Today we honor Percy Sutton

with the naming of a post office in his hometown neighborhood of Harlem, New York

Born in 1920 in San Antonio, Texas, he was the youngest of 15 children raised in a family with strong values in education. He found his niche at a young age with the Boy Scouts and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout. He attended Prairie View A&M University, Tuskegee Institute and Hampton Institute, and he earned his law degree from Brooklyn Law School.

As a teenager, he learned to fly small planes and worked as a stunt pilot at county fairs. Upon the U.S. involvement in World War II, he enlisted with the Army Air Corps but was rejected because of his race. Shortly after, he moved to New York where he was accepted into the Corps and flew with the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. His military service awarded him Combat Stars as an intelligence officer with the 332nd Fighter Group's Black 99th Pursuit Squadron.

Percy Sutton gained national recognition during the 1950s and 1960s as a close friend and lawyer to civil rights leader Malcolm X. Sutton had moved to the Harlem area of Manhattan and formed his own law firm with the help of his brother and a close friend. The area, as well as his firm, quickly became associated with the civil rights movement and current politics of the era.

Sutton ran unsuccessfully for public office, so he formed his own Democratic organization with other notable Harlem community leaders called the Harlem Clubhouse. He tried many cases during the 1960s defending the rights of many fellow African Americans in the Southern States. Still heavily interested in public service, he ran for and won an election to serve in the New York State Assembly in 1964.

His political career continued through the years and ended in the late 1970s. Over time and while still practicing law, he expanded his business by buying a radio station, the famous Apollo Theater, a local newspaper, and a cable television franchise.

Beyond his success in business, he has earned numerous awards for his charitable, civil rights and business achievements. Therefore, it is highly appropriate that we honor him with the naming of this post office.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to support the naming of this post office on 125th Street after Percy Ellis Sutton.

Madam Speaker, 125th Street is the economic corridor of the village of Harlem. It is the exciting comeback of a

community that is enjoying the creation of jobs through the Empowerment Zone. But it is also where our former President, Bill Clinton, has his offices and also one of the institutions that is driving it, the Apollo Theater. It is there because Percy Sutton brought it back from the ashes. So when tourists come and they see this wonderful new community that has come back, they will be able to look at our post office and maybe ask the question, but who was Percy Sutton?

Not too long ago, the President of the United States, George Bush, right here in the Capitol, gave the President's Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen. My brothers and sisters, every day that we are fortunate enough to live in this great country, we fail to realize that we are making history, especially those of us who are honored to be elected.

As the House and Senate head toward getting the bill approved, with the help of Senator Levin on the other side, the President spoke to these people that sometime in 1941, black and as African American as they were, were denied the opportunity to join the United States Army Air Force in order to fight the enemies of the United States of America.

Under great protest, they were allowed to try a pilot project in Tuskegee in order to see whether the outrageous charges that they were cowardly, that they couldn't learn, and they never would be able to manipulate these fighter pilots were true. And while they shattered all of the myths and turned out to be one of the most decorated outfits that survived World War II, the President, as he looked at them right here in Statuary Hall, reminded them that he knew that even though they became officers, that many of the enlisted men refused to return the salutes to them because of prejudice, racism and discrimination.

But the President said that, on behalf of the people of the United States of America, allow him to salute them. It was so moving. There wasn't a dry eye in the whole group as these warriors, these courageous fighter pilots that have done so much for this country, were able to hear the present Commander in Chief and President of the United States thank them.

So, in a way we are privileged by naming this post office not to be able to thank each and every one of the Tuskegee Airmen, but to thank at least one of them that comes from the village of Harlem, that you would say that our "thank you" may not be a salute from the Commander in Chief, but we are saying thank you for having confidence in this country and having confidence in this democracy and giving us a chance to honor Percy Sutton.

He came back home, got involved in the NAACP, got involved in politics, became an assemblyman, became a borough president and became a wellknown business person. But no matter what part of the United States you

come from, we have to take time out to thank those of us who made the sacrifice, and Percy Sutton is one of them.

So I am glad that this committee has come together to pay tribute to him, because by doing this, we pay tribute to ourselves and for those people who we don't know their names but have made sacrifices, so that we could have the honor to serve this great country.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a closing remark.

Percy Sutton was the embodiment of the American Dream, and he did it as a man who grew up with the kind of prejudice that the chairman just alluded to. It is just an honor, I think, for all of us to have the kind of inspiration that a person like Percy Sutton has provided to our country, service in the military, and really the most decorated service unit in the whole war and accomplishing that against enormous obstacles. People didn't want them to serve, yet they did, and they had confidence in us and our country despite the fact many in our country did not have confidence or even respect for them.

Then his array of accomplishments in politics, as a civic leader, a commitment to this community. Harlem, which the chairman called a village, at many other times had really tough times, and this man had confidence that this community and the people in it had as much a future as any other American. He then acted with the skills that he possessed, the energy that he had, and made Harlem into what is now, a very vital community in the City of New York.

So the Committee on Government Operations, with support from both sides of the aisle, is very proud to be bringing to the House for its full consideration the naming of this post office in honor of a great American.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 954, a bill I introduced to designate the post office located at 365 West 125th Street in Harlem as the Percy Sutton Post Office Building. I express sincere thanks to Chairman HENRY WAXMAN and Ranking Member and Member TOM DAVIS of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as well as Chairman DANNY DAVIS and Ranking Member KENNY MERCHANT of the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce Postal Service, and District of Columbia for their support of this bill. It is appropriate to designate the post office in Mr. Sutton's honor because he worked at a New York post office as a clerk while attending law school.

Percy Sutton, my very dear friend, was born the youngest of fifteen children on November 24, 1920 in San Antonio, Texas. His family owned land, a farm, and a funeral home. His entrepreneurial spirit was developed while working for the family businesses as a youngster. He was educated at Prairie View A & M University, Tuskegee Institute, Hampton University, and Brooklyn College Law School.

His career as a public servant began in 1941, when he was selected to work in Army Intelligence during World War II as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. Just prior to that selection, he was not allowed to fly fighter planes for the Army Air Corps because of racial discrimination. Despite being subjected to racial discrimination, he was committed to serve his country.

After an honorable discharge from the Army, he decided to study law. To support himself while attending law school, he worked for the United States Post Office in New York as a clerk during the evening shift and later as a conductor in the New York City subway system. He maintained this schedule for 3 years. His dedication to finish law school still inspires me today.

Motivated to fight racial discrimination, he represented the controversial revolutionary Malcolm X and other activists during the civil rights era. He also served as president of the New York chapter of the NAACP. His commitment to fight for justice and equality for African Americans was bold and admirable.

A strong interest in politics led him to campaign for the New York State Assembly several times. Finally, in 1964, he was elected and served for two years. Immediately thereafter he became the president for the Borough of Manhattan and remained in that role until 1977.

As an entrepreneur, his love of business and his Harlem community led him to purchase and totally revitalize the legendary Apollo Theatre in 1980. As the Harlem business district has flourished, the Apollo Theatre remains a community landmark and symbol. Another successful business venture he created is the Inner City Broadcasting Company, which housed the first African American owned radio station in New York. Today, there are nineteen radio stations in the Inner City network.

On March 29, 2007, I had the honor and privilege to see Percy Sutton honored with the Congressional Gold Medal along with over 300 other Tuskegee Airmen. It was a great day to see him and other African American veterans finally get the recognition that was so long overdue.

Percy Sutton is a great American and living legend. I'm certain America is a better place because of his contributions. Designating the post office building in Harlem is a great way to keep his legend alive for years to come. Since he is 86 years old and his health is fragile, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank my New York delegation colleagues for cosponsoring this bill.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 954.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL PASSPORT MONTH

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 554) supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 554

Whereas through international travel, Americans can individually play a major role towards improving foreign relations by building bridges and making connections with citizens of other countries:

Whereas interacting with the global community inspires Americans to reflect on the diverse multi-cultural background that has defined the United States as a great country of cooperation and progress;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad creates connections with the global community, supporting goodwill throughout the world;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad promotes understanding and goodwill throughout the world, opening the doors to increased peace, tolerance, and acceptance;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad opens up a preponderance of educational opportunities and experiences for Americans of all ages;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see first-hand the effect of the United States on the world, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by the United States through both public and private sectors;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad reminds Americans that they are members of a global family and gives them opportunities to mend rifts around the world;

Whereas fewer than 23 percent of Americans have passports, thereby limiting their ability to travel outside the United States;

Whereas the more Americans travel outside the United States, the more they will experience opportunities to increase their understanding of the world and the place of the United States in it;

Whereas the creation and support of a National Passport Month signals to Americans the important role they can play as ambassadors for the United States by serving as agents of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect; and

Whereas travel publishers along with travel editors from the most prestigious media outlets in the United States, student travel organizations, and book sellers have designated September as "National Passport Month" to educate the public about the importance of having a passport and the positive impact international travel has on individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Passport Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmore-Land) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore: Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 554. This supports the goals and ideals of National Passport Month. H. Res. 554, with 55 co-sponsors, was introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE on July 27, 2007. It was reported from the Oversight Committee on August 1, 2007, by a voice vote.

Madam Speaker, the creation and support of a National Passport Month signals to Americans the important role they can play as ambassadors for the United States by serving as agents of understanding, tolerance and mutual respect to citizens of other countries. The use of a passport and the desire to travel to other nations will bring personal enjoyment, enrichment and interest for both traveler and host, yet less than 25 percent of Americans have passports, thereby eliminating their ability to travel outside the United States. The passport and traveling abroad will create a connection with the global community and support goodwill throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE from California, for supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month, and I support and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1215

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

September has been recognized by the tourism industry as National Passport Month in an effort to educate the public and increase awareness of the importance of having passports.

The tourism industry brings in more than \$80 billion annually to the U.S. economy. In helping our economy thrive, it also strengthens public diplomacy through each visitor. Similarly, Americans can improve foreign relations by traveling internationally and meeting with citizens of other countries.

The opportunities to learn different cultures, view history and exchange ideas are endless for those having passports. Interacting with the global community enables travelers to promote understanding and good will.

National Passport Month educates the public on the value and positive impact international travel has on individuals. Without passports, these opportunities could not be achieved. So, therefore, Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support H. Res. 554. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield 5½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) for your leadership and for managing the bill, and also for your clarity of why we are offering this resolution today and for your support. I also thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmoreland) for your leadership and your support. To the chairman of the committee, Chairman Waxman, and our ranking member, Mr. Davis, I commend them and thank them for working together to bring this bill to the floor, as well as to our leadership.

Madam Speaker, I want to also express my appreciation to the over 60 cosponsors of this bipartisan resolution for their support.

This resolution is extremely straightforward. What it does is detail and recognize the value of international travel, and request the President to issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other entities and the people of the United States to observe National Passport Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs and activities.

The purpose of National Passport Month is to create a time to educate the public about the incredible opportunities available to those who obtain passports as well as the positive impact that international travel has on individuals and on our country.

Today, and this is quite a revealing statistic, only about 25 percent of Americans have a passport. Twenty-five percent. That means 75 percent of Americans are limited in their ability to travel abroad because they don't have a passport. As a result, they are unable to take advantage of the enriching opportunities presented by international travel.

As a member of the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I understand and appreciate the value and importance of international travel and the impact of our foreign aid and the positive value that our foreign aid brings to those throughout the world.

Many years ago I had the opportunity to live in Great Britain for a couple of years, and can say with certainty that there is no substitute for the experience you get from visiting other countries, from meeting with people, from tasting the food, from interacting with the culture. It changes the way we see the world. It broadens our horizons, it deepens our appreciation for different countries and cultures and our shared humanity. It also helps us to learn, to understand, and to tolerate and to mutually respect other cultures. Not only does travel provide enriching opportunities for the individual, it can also have profound benefits for our Nation as a whole through people-to-people contact.

In addition, having a passport and traveling abroad enables others to see our contributions firsthand, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by Americans through the public and private sectors.

Americans of all ages are our best ambassadors, and we should promote policies that encourage them to travel, to forge connections with people from other countries, to foster mutual understanding and tolerance, and to help open new doors for peaceful coexistence.

The timing of our efforts could not be more critical. I think we all recognize that America needs a boost in foreign public opinion, and I am confident that connections made with American travelers can and will make a huge difference in improving our image abroad. For all of these reasons, when Lonely Planet, which I am pleased to say is located in Oakland in my district, first raised the idea of a National Passport Month, I immediately got it. I embraced it.

I am proud to have introduced H. Res. 554 and to be a part of this campaign to recognize the importance of international travel, and I am excited by the support we have received.

Last year, Lonely Planet presented me with over 5,000 petition signatures from people all over our country who support these efforts, and this campaign has the support of a broad coalition of over 70 supporting travel organizations and associations to corporations like American Express and Yahoo.

Moreover, the Department of State is on record in supporting September as National Passport Month. Let me just read a quote from their letter: "Since September is a time of the year when schools are reopening and many students are considering travel or study abroad, it is a highly appropriate month to promote public awareness of the value of the United States passport. The Department shares your appreciation of the U.S. passport and supports your resolution."

Given the recent problems with passport backlogs, this resolution is even more timely. The administration must make passports a priority and ensure that we have the resources available to process them in a timely manner. I thank all of the supporters of this resolution.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on my side, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 554.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF SEVERE FLOODING IN EASTERN KANSAS

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 544) expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding in 20 counties in eastern Kansas beginning on June 26, 2007.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 544

Whereas, on June 26, 2007, a storm system lasting several days was responsible for bringing heavy and torrential rainfall to eastern Kansas:

Whereas communities in eastern Kansas received up to 21 inches of rain within a four-day period, resulting in devastating floods throughout the region:

Whereas the flooding led to one person's death and more than 3,100 homes and businesses destroyed or sustaining major damage:

Whereas communities in at least 20 counties were evacuated;

Whereas flood waters caused a petroleum refinery tank system to overflow into the Verdigris River, releasing an estimated 71,000 gallons of crude oil into the Coffeyville community and surrounding area;

Whereas, on June 30, 2007, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius declared a state of disaster for Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Elk, Franklin, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Wilson, and Woodson counties;

Whereas, on July 2, 2007, President George W. Bush declared a major Federal disaster for the State of Kansas that included Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Elk, Franklin, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Wilson, and Woodson counties;

Whereas other surrounding counties in Kansas also suffered damage from heavy flooding; and

Whereas areas in Oklahoma and Texas experienced devastating floods that resulted in loss of human life and millions of dollars in damage to homes and businesses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding in 20 counties in eastern Kansas beginning on June 26, 2007;

(2) conveys its gratitude to the local, State, and Federal officials and emergency personnel who responded swiftly to the crisis, including members of the Kansas National Guard and Kansas Highway Patrol:

(3) recognizes the generous support of volunteers, private and corporate donors, religious groups, and charitable organizations that have given generously toward the relief efforts following the destructive flooding; and

(4) commends the spirit of the people of Kansas, who consistently demonstrate an

outpouring of compassionate care for neighbors facing adversity and hardship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmore-Land) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. On June 26, 2007, a storm system lasting several days was responsible for bringing heavy and torrential rainfall to eastern Kansas. The affected communities received up to 21 inches of rain within a 4-day period, resulting in devastating floods throughout the region.

The flooding forced at least 20 counties to evacuate and led to the destruction of more than 3,100 homes and businesses. It caused a petroleum refinery tank system to overflow into the Verdigris River, releasing an estimated 71,000 gallons of crude oil into the Coffeyville community and surrounding area.

This resolution expresses heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused flooding in eastern Kansas.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative TODD TIAHRT, for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The massive floods that devastated 20 counties in eastern Kansas this past June left thousands of residents out of their homes. Torrential thunderstorms pounded the area beginning on June 26 and continued for 4 days. In the end, the area was hit with 21 inches of rain, causing rivers to flood, forcing countywide evacuations, schools and businesses to close, as well as causing a local oil refinery to overflow and release 71,000 gallons of crude oil into an already-flooded area.

The floods left one person dead and more than 3,100 homes and businesses destroyed or damaged. On June 30, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius declared a state of disaster for 17 counties, which President Bush later declared as Federal disasters.

Through the help of local, State and Federal officials and emergency personnel, evacuations were carried out quickly and safely. Order was maintained in the area with the help of the Kansas National Guard and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

It is important that we recognize the general support of the many volunteers, private and corporate donors, religious groups and other charitable organizations who assisted the communities in their time of need. The actions of many public servants, neighbors and community leaders helped thousands through this hardship.

This resolution expresses our sincere sympathy for the victims of this devastating storm.

Madam Speaker, I would give the gentleman from Kansas as much time as he may consume, my good friend (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) for his contributions and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmoreland) in helping me through this process of getting recognition to the people of Kansas who have suffered under this flood.

Madam Speaker, we have had a lot of trouble in Kansas this year. Out of our 105 counties, 102 have been declared a disaster at one time or another. It started in January with a 100-year event, an ice storm. We lost a lot of cattle. Power was down in half of the State. It was a very difficult time.

Later on in the year we had a series of tornadoes that were considered another 100-year event. It included a level 5 or T-5 tornado that hit Greensburg, Kansas, and the small community of 1,500 was completely wiped out by that tornado.

This was the third wave of natural disaster that has hit Kansas this year. It actually encompassed about 21 counties when it was all said and done. As you heard earlier, we lost 3,100 homes.

I have been in this flood area about five times since the flooding has occurred. I have been through the refinery that is now back up and running. The small community of Coffeyville seemed to be the worst hit. We have had quite a bit of difficulty getting through the problem, complicated by the oil that was spilled into many homes in that area.

Coffeyville resources is in the process of trying to rectify that situation; but I am very pleased that the jobs have never ceased at that refinery. They started the cleanup process right away, and they will continue to remain in that community. It is one of three refineries that we have in Kansas, and it does bring a lot of jobs to the area. It is also unique in that it is one of two refineries in the world that takes the by-product of making petroleum or gasoline from petroleum and it turns it into fertilizer for farmers in the area. So it is a very progressive refinery, and it has been a good source of jobs in that area.

I would like to acknowledge a few people who were very instrumental in bringing that community and other communities, like Independence, Kansas, back to their feet: Independence Mayor Rick Mott; Independence City Manager Paul Sasse; Independence Po-

lice Chief Ken Parker; Independence Fire Chief Dale Rail; Coffeyville Mayor Virgil Horn; Coffeyville City Manager Jeff Morris; Coffeyville Police Chief Joe Humble; Coffeyville Fire Chief Greg Allen; State Senators Derek Schmidt and Dwayne Umbarger; Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting; Governor Kathleen Sebelius; State Representatives Jeff King, Virgil Peck and Kasha Kelly; and Montgomery County Commissioners Billy Lewark-Wood, Tony Fowler and Gene Tucker.

There are other people that were involved like Jim Miller with Emergency Management and the Kansas National Guard and the Kansas Highway Patrol that did a great deal of work during that time to make sure we had minimal casualties.

The one story I remember is the gentleman who was notified to get out of the area because the floodwaters were rising.

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He chose to go back to his home to save his coin collection. I don't know what he was carrying his coins in, but he was later rescued by the Coffeyville Fire Department, and he lost all his coins.

So I think there was a good time for people to respond to the need, the disaster, and get out, but those that chose to stay behind did so at their own peril. I think it's a good lesson for all of America when emergency situations arise and our first responders are telling you to please leave the area, don't go back for your coin collection or anything else. Your personal safety is first.

Coins can be replaced, possessions can be replaced, but our human lives are one thing that cannot be replaced. So I'm very pleased that we had minimal casualties and only one fatality in that situation. Incidentally, that one fatality was a gentleman who chose not to respond to the warnings and stayed in his dwelling against the will of the people who were trying to rescue him.

There's another piece of legislation that I would like to mention that is the first step of reaching out to other areas, other Members of Congress who have had similar flooding since July. Now, they have been in States like Indiana, in their counties. It's been in Illinois, been in Texas, Nebraska. I have a bill that will help Kansas get back on its feet, but I would like to reach out to the other Members of Congress who have experienced flooding and ask them to join with me to help Kansas, as well as their areas.

I think we should have one bill that would address all the needs because they're very similar. The communities need to have the cleanup. They need to have some rehabilitation of historic buildings. They need to have infrastructure rebuilt. They need to have businesses supporting the cleanup.

So the bill that I have is H.R. 3444, and if we can work with those Members

of Congress, Madam Speaker, that have had similar flooding problems and have one bill, I think it would be easier for the House to schedule. Plus, we would meet the needs of all our communities.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia. There was one thing that I failed to mention, and that is that Coffeyville Resources, which is the refinery, has made plans to make things right. They've responded to the community. Those homes that were damaged by the spilt oil, they have asked to purchase those homes. They're going to turn that land back over to the city. They're going to make a park in that area.

So I think it's significant to note that when some corporation is a good public citizen, a good corporate citizen, that we ought to acknowledge that publicly because we need more of that. I thank you for the time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the time, and I am here to lend my support for the gentleman from Kansas' efforts in regard to once again disaster striking our State.

We come from a State, Mr. TIAHRT and I and the rest of the Members of the Kansas congressional delegation, that really has known tough times over a long history. But especially within the last few months, really within the last few months, really within the last year, Kansas has had winter storms that involved hail and freezing rain, ice, snow, as well as tornados. Greensburg, Kansas, became a national location, known by people around the world for a tornado that destroyed an entire town, and now most recently a large portion of our State has been struck by tremendous rainfall resulting in flooding.

I appreciate the gentleman from Kansas' (Mr. TIAHRT) leadership in bringing attention to this plight that we face in our State.

In fact, there are 69 counties in the First Congressional District. All but four of them have been declared natural disaster areas this year, since January 1 by the President, and FEMA and other emergency responders are at work.

encouraging thing about our The State is that local folks respond, and we've seen tremendous efforts by individual citizens from across the State arriving to help their neighbors, and we've seen the collection plates passed on Sunday morning, money being raised, response being had, and we've had tremendous support from our law enforcement community, from our emergency preparedness officials, as well as State and Federal officials. In many instances, I would report that FEMA has responded in a very noble and adequate way, and we're very grateful for that help.

Again, all the disaster has caused many Members of Congress to stop and talk to us from Kansas and wish us well. We've had encouragement and support from leaders around the world, in fact, due to the tremendous natural disasters that have occurred.

And so I'm here to express my support for Mr. TIAHRT's efforts and let him know that we all care about the portion of the State that has now been affected by these floods and will work closely with him, following his leadership to see that the response is appropriate from the Federal Government and that Kansans once again rebound from this significant natural disaster.

I, too, would like to commend Coffeyville Resources for their response. It's caused significant losses within the community of Coffeyville. It's also had a consequence upon all Kansans. It's one of our three refineries, and so gas and diesel prices have been affected as a result of the closing, at least temporarily, of a refinery in our State. But their responses, both in getting back into business and their response to being a good corporate citizen within the community of Coffeyville, should be recognized.

And finally, I thank the support we have had from my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives. I thank the gentleman for yielding

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and my colleague Mr. WESTMORELAND and urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 544, recognizing the victims of floods in Kansas.

On June 26, a storm brought several days of torrential rainfall to Kansas, leading to major damage, including the destruction of 3,100 homes and businesses, and even more tragically, one person's death.

Within a 4 day period, some communities received 21 inches of rain. Communities in 20 counties were evacuated.

This resolution simply expresses heartfelt sympathy for the victims of these devastating thunderstorms, in addition to conveying gratitude to the local, State, and Federal officials and emergency personnel who responded swiftly to the crisis, including the Kansas National Guard and Kansas Highway Patrol and recognizing the generous support of volunteers, private and corporate donors, religious groups, and charitable organizations that have given generously toward the relief efforts following the destructive flooding.

Most importantly, this resolution commends the spirit of the people of Kansas, who consistently demonstrate their strength, not only in rebuilding their own lives in the face of adversity and hardship, but also through their outpouring of compassionate care for neighbors. "Ad astra per aspera," is our Kansas motto—"to the stars through difficulties."

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 544, acknowledging the destruction left behind by recent severe weather in Kansas, yet celebrating the resilience of the Kansans rebuilding homes, businesses, lives, and dreams.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 544.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 165) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 165

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults in the United States, and many of these deaths are preventable;

Whereas almost 7,500 drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 years were involved in fatal crashes in 2005 throughout the United States;

Whereas the fatality rate in the United States for drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 years, based on miles driven, is 4 times the fatality rate for drivers between the ages of 25 and 69 years:

Whereas the majority of teen driver crashes in the United States are due to driver error and speeding, and 15 percent of the crashes are due to drunk driving:

Whereas roughly two-thirds of the teenagers killed in motor vehicle accidents in the United States each year do not use seat-belts:

Whereas approximately 63 percent of teen passenger deaths in the United States occur while other teenagers are driving;

Whereas it is necessary to explore effective ways to reduce the crash risk for young drivers by focusing research and outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most promise for improving safety;

Whereas the National Teen Driver Survey, developed with input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, demonstrates a national need to increase overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld devices, the risk of nighttime and fatigued driving, the importance of consistent seatbelt use, and the

practice of gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young driver gains more experience under supervised conditions;

Whereas in 2005, 1,553 crash fatalities involving a teen driver occurred in the fall, when teenagers are in the first months of the school year and faced with many decisions involving driving, including whether to drive with peer passengers and other distractions; and

Whereas designating the third week of October as National Teen Driver Safety Week is expected to increase awareness of these important issues among teenagers and adults in communities throughout the United States, as additional research is conducted to develop and test effective interventions that will help teenagers become safer drivers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of safe driving among the Nation's licensed teenage drivers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmore-Land) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 165, which supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

This resolution, which has 55 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative CHARLES DENT on June 6, 2007. The resolution was reported from the Oversight Committee on July 19, 2007, by a voice vote.

Madam Speaker, road crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers. These crashes are more common among young drivers than among any other age group, with one in four crash fatalities in the United States involving young people from the ages of 16 to 24.

The first 6 months after a teenager receives his or her license, he or she is especially at high risk of being in a car accident. Unfortunately, this risk stays relatively high until the young driver reaches 25.

In an effort to improve road safety and reduce crashes among young people, the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the State Farm Insurance Company codeveloped a multiyear teen center research initiative to help young drivers develop safe, smart driving behaviors and skills.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague Mr. DENT from Pennsylvania for seeking to support the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week, and I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Tragedy strikes every day as teen drivers, just on the cusp of adulthood, are killed at an alarming rate each year, causing grief and profound sadness for their families and communities.

Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults in the United States.

In 2005, almost 7,500 drivers between the age of 15 and 20 were involved in fatal crashes across the United States. Many of these deaths are preventable, and it is imperative that we do all we can to improve the safety of our roads and highways for all drivers.

H. Con. Res. 165 supports the ideals and goals of National Teen Driver Safety Week, an important event that will go a long way towards educating our young people and their families about safe driving practices.

The statistics of teen driving are simply staggering. This age group makes up only 7 percent of licensed drivers but suffers 14 percent of fatalities and 20 percent of all reported accidents.

Based on miles driven, drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 have four times the mortality rate than drivers older than 25 and up.

Most important of all, the number of teen drivers on the road is expected to grow to over 32 million by 2010, meaning that, unless we take action, this tragic problem will only get worse.

National Teen Driver Safety Week seeks to reverse these alarming trends by concentrating national attention on the development and communication of effective interventions to help reduce crashes involving teen drivers. Teens will be taught about safe driver practices that will prevent many of these accidents from occurring. Efforts will be made to encourage teens to wear seatbelts, as nearly two-thirds of all teenagers killed in motor vehicle accidents have been reportedly not wearing seatbelts.

Finally, National Teen Driver Safety Week will echo other groups in warning about the dangers of drunk driving, nighttime fatigue and other use of electronic, handheld devices. By educating teens, along with their families, we can possibly make a lasting change in teen driving behavior that will lead to safer roads for all of us.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 165, supporting the goals of the National Teen Driver Safety Week.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I reserve my time. Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to rise this afternoon in support of this legislation which designates the third week of October as National Teen Driver Safety Week.

As has already been stated, we witness this issue on far too many occasions, but roughly 7,500 teenage drivers were involved in fatal car crashes in 2005. Today, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among American teenagers.

The time has come for Congress to recognize this terrible problem and consider effective interventions that will help reduce the number of accidents involving teens on American roads.

On Monday, January 22, 2007, following a tragic accident that claimed the lives of two young high school students in my district, The Morning Call newspaper compiled a report: Fatal crashes involving teens that had occurred in the Lehigh Valley region since 2001. This report indicated that there were a total of 13 fatalities between 2001 and 2006, with alcohol involved in two of the seven accidents reported. Other contributing factors included racing and reckless behavior.

Sadly, it appears that these events, which are happening in every corner of the United States, could have been prevented, enabling these young adults to reach their destinations safely.

To address this troubling issue, the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania, or CHOP as it's commonly referred to, is currently conducting research that will help develop the best interventions to reduce the risk of crash injury for teen drivers and travelers sharing the road with them.

The alliance of Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and State Farm Insurance Company, CHOP's partner in this initiative, is nationally recognized for its research and outreach involving child passenger safety. However, this year they've expanded their agenda from the car seat to the driver's seat in an effort to address the cause of motor vehicle crashes, the leading cause of death among American teenagers.

Together, CHOP and State Farm have conducted research indicating that teens often drive while distracted and fatigued.

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I believe this alliance brings together a wide range of expertise and research and outreach, translating scientific evidence into actions that will help save lives. It's important that Congress support efforts to effectively educate these teens and families about ways to address these problems.

This resolution will endorse the goals and ideals of a week in which intensive programming will be used to encourage these teens to drive more safely. By delaying exposure to risky driving conditions until they have had enough supervised driving experience, managing

peer-to-peer interactions while in the vehicle, and reinforcing the need to protect and react to hazards more appropriately, teens will be better prepared to drive responsibly. Throughout our great Nation, teens are dying in crashes at a rate of four times that of adult drivers.

Congress must work to prevent these tragedies, and I certainly encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Tennessee (Mr. Duncan).

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for giving me this time. I actually came to the floor to speak on other legislation, but when I realized that this bill was up, I wanted to at least make a couple of comments about it.

I have the privilege of serving as the ranking member on the Highways and Transit Subcommittee. Prior to that, or a few years ago, I served for 6 years as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. The statistics, or the comparison between aviation and safety on our highways, is just staggering.

Unfortunately, we have more people killed in 3½ months on our Nation's highways than we have had killed in all U.S. aviation accidents combined since the Wright brothers' flight in 1903. But more importantly I want to commend the authors of this legislation, because we need to do everything we can to call attention to the record of teen drivers and raise the awareness of teenagers as to how dangerous our Nation's highways can be.

According to the most recent statistics by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, our safest drivers, contrary to what a lot of people believe, are those 75 and over. The second safest group of drivers are those 65 to 74.

The 75 and over age group has 2.5 accidents per 10,000 drivers. That compares to the 16-to-20 group which has 13.3 percent per 10,000 drivers. It's an amazing statistic as to how dangerous teenage driving is and how safe our older drivers are.

I just wanted to say that I rise in strong support of this resolution on Teen Driver Safety Week.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the work of my colleague, Mr. WESTMORELAND, the remarks of my colleagues, Mr. DUNCAN from Tennessee and Mr. DENT from Pennsylvania, and urge passage.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, in supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week. I signed on as an original co-sponsor of this important initiative because I believe that teen driver safety—especially in Pennsylvania—deserves our support and our attention. This is an important piece of legislation and I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support it today.

I am also proud of the research and prevention efforts of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, which includes a campus in my district. We should all applaud their commitment to keeping our teens and roads safer and I hope that the establishment of Teen Driver Safety Week will bring attention to this important issue in communities like mine across the United States.

Madam Speaker, the figures are daunting: Almost 7,500 drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 were involved in fatal crashes in 2005 and the fatality rate for teens is four times the rate for drivers between 25 and 69. The good news is that we can do something about it. The majority of teen driver crashes in our country are due to avoidable mistakes like speeding or cell phone use. The research shows that involvement from parents, educators and peers can make the difference in saving young lives.

In my own district, an organization called Central Bucks Cares is leading the charge to engage teen drivers in safe driving practices. After the tragic deaths of Laura Lauterbach and James Ogden, both students at Central Bucks East High School, the nonprofit community coalition assembled a roundtable discussion on teen driving. Following the roundtable, student intern Sarah Canavan of Buckingham helped Central Bucks Cares to draft a contract that teen drivers and their parents could agree to.

Teens agree to responsible driving practices, including courteous behavior towards other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as adherence to traffic laws and road signs. Parents agree to serve as good role models in their own driving and to encourage safe driving practices by enforcing the terms of the contract.

Sarah's younger sister Amy and her mother were the first teen/parent pair to sign and fully support the agreement. I hope that many more families in Pennsylvania and nationwide will follow their example in making a commitment to safer teen driving.

Madam Speaker, I see the difference that Central Bucks Cares is making in my district and I hope that this legislation will help other communities to do the same.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 165.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN HERSCHEL GLENN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3052) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio, as the "John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3052

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. JOHN HERSCHEL GLENN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

- (a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building".
- (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmore-Land) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 3052, which names a postal facility in Cambridge, Ohio, after John Herschel Glenn, Jr.

H.R. 3052 was introduced by Representative ZACH SPACE on July 16, 2007, and reported from the Oversight Committee on July 19, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Ohio congressional delegation.

As America knows, Mr. Glenn, Senator Glenn, is a pioneering astronaut, pilot, former United States Senator, and a true hero with a distinguished and impressive career in service to our Nation. He was born on July 18, 1921, in Cambridge, Ohio. He entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in March 1942 and commissioned in the Marines Corps in 1943.

After completing advanced training, he joined the Marine Fighter Squadron 155 and spent a year flying F-4U fighters in the Marshall Islands.

During World War II, he flew 59 combat missions. After the war, he was a member of the Marine Fighter Squadron 218 on the North China patrol and

served in Guam. From June 1948 to December 1950, Mr. Glenn taught advanced flight training in Texas. He volunteered for the Korean War, flying 63 missions and shooting down three enemy aircraft. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross six times and several other medals.

He has many other accomplishments that I believe we will hear about from Representative SPACE when he has an opportunity to speak, but he is a person widely known to Americans, Republicans, Democrats, independents, people who are active politically, those who aren't, people who revere public service in the military and in politics as one of the most extraordinary Americans of our time.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative SPACE, for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the bal-

ance of my time.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. Boehner was allowed to speak out of order.)

ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. GILLMOR

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I come to the floor today and inform all of my colleagues that our colleague from Ohio, PAUL GILLMOR, passed away suddenly overnight.

PAUL was a good friend to all of us, a colleague of mine who served in this House for nearly two decades after a long, distinguished career in the Ohio Senate. He was from Ohio, born there, raised there, went to school there. He is going to be missed by all of us.

I want to make sure that we keep Karen and his children in our thoughts in this very difficult time.

We will notify Members of the arrangements when they are made, but I would expect that later this afternoon the Members of the Ohio delegation from both sides of the aisle will be on the floor for a tribute to our friend.

WESTMORELAND. Madam Mr. Speaker, I would just like to offer my condolences to the GILLMOR family at this tragic time in their life.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am honored today to speak about a highly esteemed former Senator, distinguished war veteran, astronaut, businessman and educator, John Herschel Glenn, Jr. He is well-known throughout the history of this country through both his career in Congress and his legendary work with NASA. John Glenn has served his country profoundly for decades and remains an active leader in his community.

A lifelong resident of Ohio, he attended Muskingum College to study chemistry. Shortly after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, he enrolled in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and earned a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. He served his country in World War II as a fighter pilot, flying 59 combat missions.

After returning to the U.S., he was transferred to the Naval Air Station,

Maryland, where he has soon earned the rank of captain. His military service continued, and he saw battle in North China and Guam. He fought in the Korean War, participating in 63 air combat missions. His experience in combat fighting furthered as he attended additional flight training in Maryland. It was there that he tested flying planes at altitudes very high.

In 1957 he completed the first supersonic transcontinental flight, code named Project Bullet. This historic flight was one of many great achievements for John Glenn's career in avia-

While still serving with the Marines Corps, Glenn was assigned to NASA as one of the legendary group of astronauts involved with Project Mercury.

As a member of this elite group of astronauts, Glenn piloted the first American manned orbital mission in 1962, which I remember very well. It was the third mission

His mission brought him national fame and recognition as he was seen as an American hero. He resigned the NASA program in 1964 and one year later from the Marine Corps at the rank of colonel.

John Glenn entered the private sector working for Royal Crown Cola. But his passion for public service soon got the better of him and he decided to run for public office in 1964. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1974 after years of campaign-related setbacks. He served in the Senate for 25 years. During his last term of office, he was invited by NASA to rejoin the space program that he had helped to create, therefore becoming the oldest person to travel into space at age 77.

Upon retiring from the Senate, he moved back to Ohio permanently, where he and his wife founded the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy at Ohio State University.

The institute, which later became the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, educates and prepares students for careers in public and nonprivate sectors. Throughout his military career, his history with NASA, and upon retiring from the Senate, John Glenn earned numerous prestigious awards, some of which include earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Congressional Space Medal of

In 1990 he was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. It is with great pride that we continue to honor his service to this country, and to his community through the naming of this post office in his hometown.

Madam Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Ohio (Mr. Space).

Mr. SPACE. I thank the gentleman from Vermont for yielding this time.

I would like to preface my remarks with my condolences to the family of PAUL GILLMOR as well, an Ohioan and a good man who will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3052, legislation to rename the post office in Cambridge, Ohio, after John Glenn.

I appreciate the bipartisan support the Ohio delegation has shown for passage of this legislation, and am excited to see this bill honoring a true American hero.

John Glenn was born in Cambridge, Ohio, a very small town in the beautiful rolling hills of Guernsey County. At a very young age, he moved to nearby New Concord, where he attended both high school and college.

After graduating from Muskingum College, John Glenn answered the call to military service. As a naval pilot, he served in both World War II and the Korean conflict, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross on six occasions and the Air Medal with 18 Clusters.

After leaving the military, John Glenn became a test pilot for the Naval Air Test Center. In 1957, he set a speed record by flying from Los Angeles to New York in 3 hours and 23 minutes.

It was his experience as a pilot that led to his most celebrated accomplishments in aeronautics. In 1959, John Glenn volunteered to become one of the original seven Mercury astronauts, the first manned space flight program in the United States.

Several years later, John Glenn embarked on his famous mission. In February of 1962, he became first man to orbit the Earth, completing that feat three times over.

John Glenn's marvels were not merely limited to aeronautical achievements. Following the end of his career in aeronautics, Ohio was the fortunate benefactor of John Glenn's public service. He served as a United States Senator with dignity and honor for 28 years before retiring.

As a freshman Member of Congress, I often look to examples to follow. I have had the good fortune of getting to know Senator Glenn in these last few months

As an example of his courage and character, he tells a story of what he was feeling when he was about to be blasted into space 45 years ago.

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I asked him, were you afraid? And he very candidly offered his response of yes, he was, but he did it because it was the right thing to do. He and his lovely wife, Annie, discussed the fact that there was a very good chance that he would not come back, and they did it anyway. He did it with courage and honor. He did it because it was right for this country. And at this time, in our history, I think it would serve all of us very well, Madam Speaker, to follow the example that John Glenn presented for us, the trails that he blazed. He is, in fact, the best that this country has to offer. He has shown courage in the face of adversity. He has shown selflessness for the sake of making our country a better place.

The Cambridge post office is one that has stood the test of time. For the better part of a century it has stood as a landmark in one of the central towns in my district. Moreover, the Cambridge post office serves the folks in the small town where John Glenn was born, and it's the same building in which John Glenn's distinguished military career began so many years ago when he registered for enlistment and service to his country. From this point onward it will bear a name of one that has brought much inspiration to the daily lives of Ohioans.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Spaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3052, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio as the "John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building." I agree with Congressmen SPACE and TIBERI that it is long overdue for us to finally pay fitting tribute to an American hero who answered the call of service so many times,

while asking nothing in return.

John Glenn's life is truly an American story. Born in Cambridge, Ohio in 1921 and raised in New Concord, John Glenn spent his early years in Ohio. After graduating with a baccalaureate degree in engineering from Muskingum College, John Glenn began his distinguished military career as a Marine and fighter pilot. He flew 149 combat missions, in both World War II and the Korean War, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross six times.

But more than his impressive record of military service. John Glenn will always be best known for his contributions to our nation's space exploration program. Glenn's experience and skill made him a logical candidate for the astronaut corps being formed during 1958. On February 20, 1962, Glenn piloted the Mercury-Atlas 6 "Friendship 7" spacecraft on the first manned orbital mission of the United States. This endeavor was a critical political and scientific milestone. It revolutionized the perspective of the American people and instilled public faith in the fledgling space program, which at that time was lagging behind the Soviets in the "Space Race." As a Member of Congress from the Houston area, the home of the Johnson Space Center, I personally want to think John Glenn for this great achievement. John Glenn always had the "Right Stuff," as the writer Tom Wolfe so aptly

After his famous flight, John Glenn returned to his home state of Ohio and went on to serve the state with distinction and honor in United States Senate. In his four terms in the Senate, John Glenn took a leading role in the effort to reduce nuclear weapons and government affairs. He was chief author of the 1978 Nuclear Nonproliferation Act, served as chairman of the Senate Government Affairs Committee from 1978 until 1995, and was a leading member of the Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees and the Special Committee on Aging. Always willing to serve his country, John Glenn waged a spirited contest for his party's presidential nomination in 1984.

In February 1997, John Glenn announced that he would retire from the Senate. A year later, NASA requested him to rejoin the space program he had helped to create as a member of the Space Shuttle Discovery Crew.

John Glenn accepted the invitation and on October 29, 1998, at age 77, became the oldest human ever to venture into space. This voyage to outer space was no mere publicity stunt, however, thanks to John Glenn; NASA scientists gained much valuable information. Senator Glenn conducted the Canadian Space Agency's OSTEO (Osteoarthritis) experiment on board the Space Shuttle Discovery during the mission which contributed to our understanding of the aging process. The OSTEO experiment studied the underlying processes of bone loss and evaluated treatments. The research, supervised by John Glenn, was ideally suited for the space environment, as bone loss in space is four to ten times faster than during osteoporosis on Earth. The experiment demonstrated how bone mineralization decreases during space flight and also showed that a specific therapeutic agent, called recombinant human parathyroid hormone (PTH), is able to reverse this loss. The experiments were such a success, that the Canadian Space Agency is developing followup experiments on future space missions.

Madam Speaker, I would again like to voice my support for H.R. 3052, and finally give back something to a man that has already given so much to his country. "God Speed, John Glenn."

WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill. H.R. 3052.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAFF SERGEANT DAVID L. NORD POST OFFICE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3106) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Main Street in Ferdinand, Indiana, as the "Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3106

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT DAVID L. NORD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Main Street in Ferdinand, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office".

(b) References.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Vermont (Mr. Welch) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORE-LAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3106. This names a postal facility in Ferdinand, Indiana after David L. Nord.

H.R. 3106, introduced by Representative BARON HILL on July 19, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on August 1, 2007, by voice vote. This measure, cosponsored by eight Members, has the support of the entire Indiana congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, Staff Sergeant David Nord was killed on June 23, 1969, in Bing Long, South Vietnam. He was assigned to 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Camp Blackhorse, Vietnam as a scout section leader.

Staff Sergeant Nord was awarded the Bronze Star, along with several other awards for his bravery and sacrifice to his country.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative BARON HILL, for introducing this legislation, and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon, again, to pay tribute to another remarkable soldier and another true American hero. At the age of only 21, Staff Sergeant David Nord from Ferdinand, Indiana became a genuine war hero. On June 23, 1969, he was killed in Vietnam War action while serving with the U.S. Army.

Staff Sergeant Nord was born and raised in Ferdinand, Indiana, sharing his younger years with his one brother and three sisters. After graduating in 1967 from St. Ferdinand High School, he worked in the Ferdinand furniture factory.

Staff Sergeant Nord was drafted into the Army where he was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Camp Blackhorse, Vietnam. With his positive attitude and hard work he rose quickly through the ranks and served as a scout section leader. After serving several months, Staff Sergeant Nord was granted a 21-day home leave, and it was during that time that he married Louann, his long-time girlfriend. Sadly, only three weeks after returning to the battlefield, he and most of his

crew were killed when a grenade hit the tank that he was commanding. He left behind his family, his new wife and a baby, David Lee II, who he never got to meet. Staff Sergeant Nord was also the first member of the Ferdinand Post 124 of the American Legion to be killed in action. He showed outstanding bravery, courageous leadership and heroism which earned him nine medals that were awarded to his family, his wife and his son after his death. The awarded medals were the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Campaign Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon, the Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Service Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Expert Badge with Rifle Bar and the Sharp Shooter Badge with Rifle Bar.

It is for those reasons that we name this post office for Staff Sergeant David Nord in his hometown of Ferdinand, Indiana. And, Madam Speaker, I hope that all of our colleagues will vote for this unanimously.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Indiana, Representative BARON HILL, such time as he may consume.

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3106 would rename the post office in Ferdinand, Indiana after David Nord, the only Vietnam veteran from Ferdinand who was killed in action in the Vietnam War. This idea first came to my attention because of the hard work of David's family and his friends. They called me. This bill represents what we, as Members of our Congress, are here for, and that is to represent our constituents back home. I'd like to thank and recognize a few people who have been influential in getting this accomplished. First I would like to recognize David Nord's brother Dan and the rest of the family David left behind, including his son, David Nord II. Dan has been very active in making sure his brother's life is remembered and honored.

Like Dan, Frank Begle, a fellow soldier of David Nord's in Vietnam, has been a driving force in getting the Ferdinand post office renamed to honor David Nord.

Also Kathy Tretter, the editor and co-publisher of the local paper in Ferdinand, population of about 800 or 900 people. The Ferdinand News contacted my staff about this effort after working on stories about David's life.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Indiana delegation for all cosponsoring this bill.

Let me take a moment to touch on why the post office in downtown Ferdinand should be renamed to honor David Nord. David Nord is the only Ferdinand native who was killed in Vietnam. He was drafted into the Army, and in talking to his younger brother Dan, David was not very excited about having to go to Vietnam. But he did his duty to his country, and for that we give him thanks.

David rose quickly through the Army ranks because of his hard work and skill. And when he returned home briefly in 1969, he came home to marry his long-time girlfriend. Unfortunately, and tragically, shortly thereafter, David returned to Vietnam and was killed on Monday, June 23, 1969, when a tank he was commanding had to stop because the rubber tracker which propelled the vehicle forward slipped from its drive wheels and David was hit by a grenade. He died instantly, as well as most of his crew.

David's son was born just a few months after his death, and David, I know right now, is trying to get to a television screen to see his father being honored here this afternoon.

A friend from Ferdinand who was stationed in the same unit as David tells stories about how David used to give starving Vietnamese women and children his Army rations. That was the kind of guy that he was.

David left behind his parents, his wife, his younger brother and a son he never met.

Staff Sergeant David Nord was honored with the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Campaign Good Conduct Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Service Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Expert Badge with Rifle Bar, and Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar.

His family still lives in Ferdinand, Indiana, as well as his son David Nord, Jr. Clearly, David deserves this recognition, and it's an honor for me to introduce this resolution. And I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill for David Nord and his family and for the city and town of Ferdinand, Indiana.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill. H.R. 3106.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESIGNATING A PORTION OF INTERSTATE ROUTE 395 LO-CATED IN BALTIMORE, MARY-LAND, AS "CAL RIPKEN WAY"

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3218) to designate a portion of Interstate Route 395 located in Baltimore, Maryland, as "Cal Ripken Way".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3218

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The portion of Interstate Route 395 located in Baltimore, Maryland, beginning at the junction of Interstate Routes 395 and 95 and ending at Conway Street shall be known and designated as "Cal Ripken Way".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the portion of Interstate Route 395 referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Cal Ripken Wav".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3218.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise in support of H.R. 3218, which was authored by my colleague from Maryland, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, to designate a portion of I-395 in Baltimore as "Cal Ripken Way."

Cal Ripken, Jr. played for 21 seasons with my hometown team, the Baltimore Orioles. Known as the Iron Man, he is perhaps most famous for playing in 2,632 consecutive games, breaking the record for consecutive appearances that was set by another legend of baseball, Lou Gehrig.

However, his career was not only about his resilience but about the dedication and the hard work he brought, both to the field and to our community. He finished his career with more than 3,000 hits, an incredible achievement that is one of the most difficult to accomplish in baseball. These hits included 431 home runs, and they produced 1,695 RBIs.

He began his career by earning the Rookie of the Year award. He went on to receive two Golden Glove awards, and was twice named the American League's Most Valuable Player. He was also twice named as the Most Valuable Player at the Major League All Star Game.

In recognition of his achievements and of his importance to the game of baseball, he was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame this year, the first year in which he was eligible to be so honored. Cal Ripken represents the very best that we have ever seen in the game of baseball.

Since leaving baseball, he has come to represent the very best of our community and, indeed, of our Nation by finding new ways to help build the same dedication to excellence in our young people that he brought to his incredible career. He established and

manages the Cal Ripken Baseball Division, in which literally hundreds of thousands of youngsters have participated, learning not only the skills of baseball, but the work ethic that will help them succeed in whatever they choose to do in life.

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With his brother, he also established the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation in honor of their father to give underprivileged youth the opportunity to participate in baseball and softball.

In recognition of his ability to motivate and inspire, he was recently selected to serve our Nation as a Special Sports Envoy for the United States Department of State. At the time of his appointment, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice noted that Cal Ripken brought "integrity to the game of baseball," and I think his personal integrity is truly his greatest legacy.

Cal Ripken is not only a sports hero who has achieved extraordinary accomplishments through hard work and sheer perseverance, he is a popular figure who has cultivated, in a way that increasingly few sports figures do, his ability to be a positive role model.

Cal has synchronized his personal character with his physical abilities and has consistently used his extraordinary gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

As a Baltimorean, I thank my colleague Congressman SARBANES for his work on this legislation. I join all of my colleagues from Maryland in recognizing the incredible legacy that Cal Ripken has given not only to our city but to our Nation of excellence on the field and service off the field. I can think of no more fitting way to honor Cal Ripken than by naming the interstate that passes by Camden Yards, which is only a few blocks from my house, where he played his entire career in his honor, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3218.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my very strong support for H.R. 3218. H.R. 3218 designates Interstate Route 395 in Baltimore, Maryland, as "Cal Ripken Way."

Cal Ripken, Jr. is a native son of Havre de Grace, Maryland, in Harford County, about 35 miles northeast of Baltimore. Cal Ripken, also known as "Iron Man," is best known for his record-shattering streak of playing 2,632 straight games for the American League's Baltimore Orioles over 17 years, from May 1982, through September 1998. An unbelievable record. He retired from Major League Baseball in October 2001, after playing 21 straight years for the Orioles, between 1981 and 2001.

On September 6, 1995, Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played, a record that

had stood for 57 years. On that historic night at Camden Yards, Ripken not only broke the record but also hit a home run in the fourth inning of that game.

His father, Cal Ripken, Sr., was a former baseball player, coach, and scout for the Orioles. In 1987 and 1988, Cal Ripken, Sr. managed the Orioles, and both Cal Ripken, Jr. and his brother Billy played for the team that year, a first in baseball history.

Since leaving the game in 2001, Cal Ripken has dedicated his life and his work to youth. He established the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, which uses baseball- and softball-themed programs to help instill leadership qualities, a strong work ethic, sportsmanship, and healthy habits. He also built the Ripken Youth Baseball Academy, the largest baseball academy in the United States, where thousands of young people learn the finer points of baseball and deepen their love for playing it.

He served as the first commissioner of the White House T-Ball initiative for President George Bush from 2001 to 2004. And on July 29, 2007, Cal Ripken was fittingly inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame.

When I was growing up, Madam Speaker, I served 5½ years as a batbov for the Knoxville Smokies baseball team. I served other seasons as ball chaser, scoreboard operator, clubhouse boy. In my freshman year at the University of Tennessee, I served as a public address announcer. I grew up in minor league baseball. My father gave Earl Weaver his first managerial job in Knoxville, managing the Knoxville Smokies in 1956, and we became a farm club of the Baltimore Orioles. People who later played with Cal Ripken or who he knew through the Orioles like Milt Pappas, Jerry Walker, Ron Hansen, Willie Tasby, Mike Cuellar, Dave Nicholson, and many other players who later played for the Orioles played in Knoxville.

Baseball has meant a lot to me and my family through the years, and it is a real honor and privilege for me to stand here before you today and announce my support for this very appropriate legislation to honor a truly great American, Cal Ripken, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland, sponsor of the legislation (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding his time and for his support. I thank Congressman Duncan for his support of H.R. 3218, which it was my privilege to introduce in the House.

This legislation honors Cal Ripken, Jr. on his induction into the pro baseball Hall of Fame by renaming Interstate 395 in Baltimore, which runs into the city and ends near Oriole Park at Camden Yards, as "Cal Ripken Way." It is fitting that we would pass this measure today on the eve of the 12th

anniversary of Cal's setting the consecutive games record. I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his assistance in bringing this measure to the floor.

Cal's stellar career no doubt made him worthy of induction into the Hall of Fame. In fact, he was elected to the Hall with the highest vote total ever, the highest vote percentage for any position player, and the third highest vote percentage in history.

But the numbers don't even begin to explain what he means to our national pastime. Too often, our sports stars are famous for all the wrong reasons. But time and again Cal Ripken, Jr. has been a source of pride for baseball.

Cal was a spectacular player but not a flashy one. He played fundamental baseball, always doing the little things and setting the example for how a professional should perfect his trade. And he showed up every day.

From the heights of the World Series championship in 1983 to the depths of the 21-game losing streak that began the 1988 season, Cal was there every day. After the cancellation of the 1994 World Series, many fans mark September 6, 1995, the night Ripken played in his 2,131st game, as the night that America came back to baseball.

Ripken's commitment to working hard and playing by the rules became known as "The Ripken Way." He inspired the people of Baltimore every season with his quiet and unassuming dedication to his work and continues to do so in retirement through numerous charitable works and his youth baseball foundation.

In fact, I believe that Cal has inspired Americans all over the country. I think Tony Kornheiser captured this well in a column that appeared in the Washington Post on September 7, 1995. He wrote: "When I look at this record, I think I hear the rhythms of America. This celebration of Cal is the fanfare for the common man. Going to work every day . . . building a career, providing for our family like our fathers did before us is something we can all relate to."

Madam Speaker, if we pass this legislation, when travelers come to visit Baltimore or pass by on their way to another destination, they will not only be reminded of a terrific ballplayer whose name has become synonymous with the Orioles but also a model American and the promise of doing things the "Ripken Way." I hope my colleagues agree that this is a fitting tribute to one of the best loved and most enduring figures in the history of baseball.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I will just close by saying that Cal Ripken is certainly a throwback to the old days in which little boys could look up to major league baseball players as real heroes and role models in their lives, and I can't adequately express my great admiration for Cal Ripken.

I urge support for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume

First of all, I want to thank again Mr. SARBANES for sponsorship. I want to thank you, Mr. DUNCAN. I didn't know you had that kind of relationship to baseball and to the Baltimore Orioles.

As I listened to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Sarbanes, Madam Speaker, I was just reminded that, sitting on the Government Reform Committee, in that committee we dealt with the whole issue of steroids. We saw players come before our committee, many of them having to put their heads down when asked certain critical questions about character. And it is so good to know that there is somebody like Cal Ripken around, somebody who does not mind accepting the role as a role model and being just that.

So many young people look up to sports figures, and they try to emulate them. All you have to do is go to a baseball game and you will see them with the jerseys on with names of players on the back. And if you go to Memorial Stadium, now called Oriole Park, you will see a lot of jerseys with little kids, trying to dream the Cal Ripken dream, with his name on their backs.

So it is with great honor that I ask all of our Members to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3218, to designate a portion of Interstate 395 located in Baltimore, MD, as "Cal Ripken Way."

Cal Ripken, Jr. was not only a remarkable baseball player, he was an outstanding role model for the youth of America. He exhibited the utmost in professionalism and sportsmanship in every aspect of his life.

Čal Ripken, Jr. was known to many as the "Iron Man" for tirelessly overcoming many minor injuries to always be in the lineup for his team and for the fans. He took the field for the Baltimore Orioles on May 30, 1982 and did not miss a game until September 19, 1998. On September 6, 1995, millions of fans worldwide tuned in to watch Cal Ripken, Jr. surpass Lou Gehrig for the most consecutive games played, at 2,131 games. He ended his streak having played in 2,632 consecutive games.

By the time he retired from professional baseball, in October 2001, Cal Ripken had played 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles. During that time, Mr. Ripken had broken the team's record for career games played, at bats, runs, hits, doubles, homeruns, RBIs, total bases, and walks. He is a member of Major League Baseball's exclusive 3,000 hit club.

Cal Ripken stuck with his team through the good years and the bad years with a level of professionalism rare in sports today. He was a favorite among fans and holds the record for most All-Star votes received by any single player. He was voted to play in the All-Star game 19 times, and won the game's Most Valuable Player, MVP, honor twice. On Thursday, July 26, 2007, Cal Ripken, Jr. was inducted

into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, with the third highest percentage of votes ever received.

After his storied baseball career, Cal Ripken, Jr. continues to make a difference in his community an across the country. Along with his brother Billy, he formed the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation to give underprivileged children the opportunity to attend baseball camps around the country and to learn his beloved game.

Between 2001 and 2004, Ripken served as commissioner of the White House Tee Ball Initiative, in which he worked to promote the value of teamwork and volunteerism amongst young players. On April 9, 2007, Ripken announced a partnership with the recently formed "Reviving Baseball in the Inner City" program, with the donation of \$1 million in cash and equipment from the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3218, to dedicate a portion of our Nation's highway system to commemorate the tremendous career and outstanding leadership of Cal Ripken, Jr.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3218.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND THE CITIZENS OF MINNESOTA FOR THEIR VALIANT EFFORTS IN RESPONDING TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE INTERSTATE ROUTE 35W MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 606) honoring the city of Minneapolis, first responders, and the citizens of the State of Minnesota for their valiant efforts in responding to the horrific collapse of the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River Bridge.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 606

Whereas the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River Bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, collapsed on August 1, 2007, during the evening rush hour;

Whereas Minneapolis police and fire officials have reported a rising number of fatalities and injuries resulting from the tragedy;

Whereas because rescue and recovery efforts are ongoing, the effect of the tragedy on the community and on Minnesota families is still unfolding;

Whereas the first emergency personnel on the scene responded to the tragedy without hesitation, risking their health and safety to rescue victims and to provide emergency care to the injured; Whereas as there are questions that remain unanswered about the tragedy, it is clear that the commitment and heroism exhibited by first responders in the minutes and hours following the tragedy saved countless lives:

Whereas the people of Minnesota and the Nation recognize that the dedication of first responders will remain steadfast throughout the ongoing recovery, repair, and rebuilding efforts;

Whereas scores of ordinary people became extraordinary citizens following the tragedy by rushing to the aid of their fellow Minnesotans:

Whereas the residents of Minneapolis should be commended for their bravery and tireless efforts following the tragedy on behalf of their neighbors and their city;

Whereas there was an immediate outpouring of support and assistance from surrounding communities following the tragedy, including over 50 organizations and local units of government; and

Whereas the heartbreaking images coming out of Minneapolis have captured the attention and sympathy of the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the city of Minneapolis, first responders, and the citizens of the State of Minnesota for their valiant efforts in responding to the horrific collapse of the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River Bridge;

(2) praises the people of Minneapolis and Minnesota for their great courage in this time of crisis;

(3) recognizes the leadership and passionate commitment of the elected officials representing the people of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the State of Minnesota;

(4) honors the emergency responders, within and beyond Minneapolis, for their bravery and sacrifice following the tragedy;

(5) extends its heartfelt sympathies to the families of all those lost in the tragedy; and

(6) reaffirms its support and commitment to all of the Nation's law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians as they selflessly serve their communities, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 606.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I strongly support House Resolution 606, introduced by my colleague Congressman Ellison, my friend and fellow Minnesotan. Congressman Ellison represents the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota, which includes the city of Minneapolis. I am grateful to Congressman Ellison for his work in introducing this resolution and getting it to the floor in a quick manner.

On August 1, the Interstate 35W bridge collapsed over the Mississippi River. The images of that disaster are now etched in our collective memories in this country. We can all recall the strange and surreal sight of a bridge lying crumpled and broken, laying in that great river. And we can all recall the images of vehicles that were crushed by the debris as well as those like the school bus that was full of children that sat amongst all that disaster and carnage and its occupants, and thankfully, escaped unharmed.

Unfortunately, not everyone on the I-35 bridge that Wednesday made it home safely. Thirteen of our fellow Minnesotans, husbands, wives, sons, grandchildren. daughters. grandparents, were killed in the tragedy. That those numbers were not higher was due in no small part to the hundreds of firefighters, police, emergency personnel, and ordinary citizens who rushed to the aid of their fellow citizens. The direct action of these civil servants and citizens immediately following this tragedy undoubtedly saved countless lives and eased suffering. Ordinary residents of the city of Minneapolis displayed extraordinary courage and compassion on August 1.

This resolution recognizes the outstanding work and effort of the first responders, the city officials, and the residents of Minnesota for their quick and compassionate response. I am pleased to join Congressman ELLISON and all of the Minnesota delegation in this effort, and I extend my gratitude to those whose dedication and duty was so evident on August 1.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 606 introduced by Mr. ELLISON of Minnesota. This resolution recognizes the city of Minneapolis, first responders, and the citizens of the State of Minnesota for their selfless actions in responding to the collapse of the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River bridge.

The first responders to the scene acted without hesitation, risking their safety in the dangerous conditions, to rescue the victims of this tragedy. This resolution honors their sacrifice in the immediate aftermath of the bridge collapse and their commitment to save lives, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves. Additionally, this resolution is a fitting commendation to the people of Minneapolis for their heroism and compassion for their fellow citizens. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to those affected by this tragedy and to their families.

I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Missouri for the kind words and compassionate response. The overwhelming response from the Members of this body was truly heartfelt and truly put action into words in getting Minnesota and Minneapolis moving forward.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the main sponsor of this bill, the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) in responding to this disaster that occurred in his district.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise on the floor today to speak on behalf of H. Res. 606, a resolution that honors the city of Minneapolis and the first responders and citizens of Minnesota for their valiant efforts in responding to the horrific collapse of Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge.

Madam Speaker, while we honor the city of Minneapolis, there are also numerous cities in the area of Minneapolis, such as New Hope, Golden Valley, and many, many others, all that sent their first responders to the aid of the victims. And each and all of these cities deserve honor and respect. Thank you.

At 6:05 p.m. on August 1, 2007, Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people and injuring nearly 100 people. The 13 victims were mothers, fathers, children, workers, good people, each and all.

I'm honored today to stand with my colleagues from Minnesota to honor the work of the first responders and the entire community of Minnesota and the Nation for stepping up to the plate to assist our community on August 1 in responding to the horrific bridge collapse.

Without any hesitation or any regard or consideration for their own safety, Minnesota first responders, fire-fighters, police, emergency medical personnel all rushed to the bridge collapse scene, and it is clear that the commitment and heroism in the minutes and hours that followed the tragedy saved countless lives.

Additionally, scores of ordinary Minnesotans became good Samaritans. For example, Madam Speaker, Jeremy Hernandez, a 20-year-old employee of a Minneapolis nonprofit organization, was riding on a school bus with over 50 children when the bus dropped towards the Mississippi River gorge as the bridge collapsed. Jeremy immediately took charge and evacuated the bus, ensuring that all staff and children got off the bus safely. This is America and Minnesota at its best when ordinary citizens become extraordinary citizens.

But let me conclude, Madam Speaker, by respectfully asking this Congress to regard this tragedy as a national call to action, to focus our public energy on the reconstruction of our public infrastructure.

On August 1, we as a Nation were united in grief for the victims, and we were united in the recovery and healing efforts. Now let us all stand united

in rebuilding our country's ailing public infrastructure. For if the Nation is a body, our infrastructure is the skeleton that holds it up.

I look forward to working with Members of Congress. I thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank you, Mr. WALZ, for your excellent energy. I also would be remiss if I did not commend your community, our community, and southern Minnesota for its own tragedy that we suffered collectively. And we stand with the people of southern Minnesota in solidarity and in brother- and sisterhood. Thank you very much.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. Bachmann).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear colleague for allowing me this moment to address the body.

I, too, offer my condolences and sympathy to the Members and families of our Minnesota community who endured one of the most horrific losses that anyone can imagine. When it's a beautiful, wonderful evening in Minnesota in August, August 1, when people are on their way to the Twins game and home from work, their minds are on the BBQ and what they're going to do when they go home, what they're going to say to their husband, what they're going to say to their wife, going to their child's T-ball game or their soccer game, those were the kind of things that were on the minds of Minnesotans when all of a sudden, inexplicably, this bridge that is the most traveled bridge in the State of Minnesota went down. Something no one would ever imagine could happen happened.

The Saturday after the bridge collapse occurred, I had the opportunity to go back and meet with some of the first responders, as my colleagues did as well. And I think to a person we can say what we saw that day was nothing short of just the joy and the grief, all of the emotions mixed together on the faces of the firemen, faces of the policemen, faces of the health care professionals as well who were there, who saw that horror firsthand and did what we expect that they would do, be first responders. Seems like an ordinary thing that they should do their job, but it's never an ordinary thing to lay down your life for your fellow man. That's what a police officer does every day when they put on that uniform. That's what a fireman does every day when they put on that uniform. And that day they were called upon to do that duty, make that sacrifice. They did it. And I'll tell you what, I could not be more proud of those first responders.

And it was wonderful, too, Madam Speaker, to see how in this body this wasn't a Republican or Democrat issue, this was about being human, this was about loving our fellow man. And I can't say enough about the effort of the two parties to come together and unanimously making the right decision, and that is, authorizing the

money for this bridge to get it up and built again, and then hopefully now appropriate that money to get it up again.

I commend Congressman Ellison, Congressman Walz, I commend Congresswoman McCollum and everyone in our delegation who came together to get behind this bridge. But more importantly, it's the first responders who came together and laid down their lives.

One of the people who did that was a constituent of mine. I just want to mention him a little bit. His name is Gary Babineau, 24 years old, lives up in Blaine. He is a construction worker. Gary was coming home from work that night, like most Minnesotans, thinking about what he was going to do. His wife is due with their first baby 2 weeks later. And that's what he was thinking about, that new little baby that was about to come 2 weeks from now, when all of a sudden he was right across from that vellow school bus that we all saw on the news. And Gary's truck was on the bridge, and he felt the bridge go down. And in a moment of time, his black pickup truck fell 30 feet down to the bottom. He never thought he would wake up again. He never thought he would open his eves again, but he did. And he couldn't believe it, he could move. His back was severely hurt, but he could move. He got out of that truck and he went and he helped person after person get out of their vehicle. carried people to safety. And then Gary remarkably, here in the midst of having a severely injured back, he jumped off the bridge, got onto the ground, got back on the bridge, not knowing that the bridge would be stable, got on that bridge and went immediately to that yellow school bus. And he then assisted those 50 children getting off that bus. And as a matter of fact, it was reported in the paper it said, Gary Babineau said. "I could see the whole bridge going down, and I was going down, too," he said. "I have a baby coming in 2 weeks and that's all I could think about. We hit bottom, and I couldn't believe that I could open my eyes. I couldn't believe that I could move.'

Gary Babineau was an ordinary man, but he became a first responder and he helped save lives. At the moment that he was needed he did it. We kind of expect that that's what Americans would do. We're just good people, we help each other in time of need. And here in this tragedy, as we have seen other tragedies that have befallen our Nation, when things didn't go exactly right in the recovery effort, here in Minnesota we saw that things were right. It happened right. And the reason why it happened right was because of first responders, official first responders, nonofficial first responders. But they did what was right because they acted out of love, out of a heart of love for their fellow man.

So I thank those first responders, the firemen, the policemen, the average Joes, the Gary Babineaus in their

truck. And I thank the Federal officials, our President, our Members of Congress. I thank the county officials, the city officials, the State officials. Everybody did what was right.

But thank you, Congressman Ellison. This was the right resolution to bring forward today to honor these selfless individuals who none of us could live without. Thank you, first responders. I encourage my colleagues to give us a unanimous vote to this wonderful resolution.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, we in Minnesota rarely refer to Minneapolis without mentioning our sister city of St. Paul, our Twin Cities, and we are fortunate that these two cities have excellent representation in their two Representatives.

It's a real pleasure for me to yield as much time as she may consume, her dedication and leadership in this matter has been outstanding, and I give as much time as needed to Congresswoman MCCOLLUM.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Congressman WALZ, it would go without saying that the Twin Cities, my district, is doing whatever we can in support both with volunteers, with thoughts, with prayers, and with anything that would come forward in a special session to support the tragedy that has taken place in southern Minnesota. And much of what we can say about our first responders we can also say about the first responders in your district.

Madam Speaker, it has been just over a month since we saw the unthinkable happen in Minneapolis; the collapse of the I-35W bridge into the Mississippi River shocked our Nation. For Minnesotans, it was only the beginning of an ordeal that we will never forget.

In the hours and days that followed, we waited quietly for the word of missing loved ones. We watched anxiously as skilled Navy and FBI divers searched the treacherous wreckage and felt our hearts grow heavy again when we heard the news of each recovered victim. A month later, we continue to grieve for the 13 who lost their lives that evening, six of them my constituents.

Our prayers are with the survivors, whose deep physical and emotional injuries have yet to heal. But along with the twisted metal and sunken concrete, the aftermath of the bridge collapse also brought us the unforgettable images of courage and hope. The off-duty firefighter, without any diving gear, going under the water again and again to search cars for trapped victims; the bus driver, counselors, and others on the bridge who threw open the emergency exit of a yellow school bus and made sure that all 61 of the children got to safety.

The bridge's collapse may have shocked the Nation, but the response of Minnesota's emergency personnel, public servants and ordinary citizens awed and inspired the Nation. Again and again my colleagues in Congress have

approached me to express their amazement at the compassion and strength of our community.

Madam Speaker, this resolution honors the courage and selflessness of all Minnesotans involved in this disaster. It honors the first responders who rushed to the scene evacuating scores of victims and saving countless lives. It honors the medical personnel who worked and still work tirelessly to heal the injured. It honors the local and national recovery teams who carried out the excruciating and difficult search of the wreckage and bringing closure to the family and friends of the victims. It honors ordinary Minnesotans who were at every step of the way, from those who dove into the water to save lives immediately after the collapse to those who continue to offer time, material support, emotional comfort for grieving families today.

Our recovery effort is not over yet. The Twin Cities community will feel the consequences of the bridge's collapse for years to come. As we turn to the task of adjusting our daily commutes and planning to rebuild the bridge, we must also begin to repair and rebuild the other bridges and infrastructure in Minnesota that are in danger. We also must work to rebuild the infrastructure across this Nation.

This resolution honors the strength, the sympathy, the steadfastness of the people of Minnesota that we saw so clearly in the wake of this tragedy. And I have faith that these same courageous qualities will see us through the challenges ahead.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota. Congressman KLINE.

□ 1345

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today in support of H. Res. 606 to honor all of those who so bravely risked their lives in the face of this catastrophe. I had the privilege of meeting with many of the first responders, volunteer organizations, local and State officials in my tours of the site of the collapse.

The first emergency personnel on the scene responded to the tragedy without hesitation, as has been discussed by my colleagues here today. They risked their health and safety to rescue victims and to provide emergency care to the injured. Scores of ordinary people did, indeed, become extraordinary citizens following the tragedy by rushing to the aid of their fellow Minnesotans. The outpouring of support and assistance from surrounding communities, including more than 50 volunteer organizations, was tremendous. Throughout the rescue and recovery mission, there have been countless stories of the generosity by the citizens of Minnesota. From organizing blood drives to caring for the needs of the bridge recovery workers. Minnesotans continue to go above and beyond the call of duty. In a

time of sadness and sorrow for so many, we remain thankful for the true kindness and compassion of Minnesotans.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take just a minute here to discuss, as some of my colleagues have alluded to, another catastrophe which struck the State of Minnesota in Mr. WALZ's district. My family has a farm down in Houston, Minnesota, in the very southeastern tip, and I spent 3 days there at the end of the August break. It is distressing. It is an awesome power that we saw when those creeks and rivers flooded and the destruction is immense. Again, it is not just the first responders in Minneapolis and the surrounding communities, but I am sure that my friend and colleague from the First District, Mr. WALZ, can attest to the fact that first responders throughout the State came to the aid of those in southeast Minnesota.

So, Madam Speaker, as always, we are mindful of the lives that were lost in both tragedies and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the victims and their families and with all Minnesotans as we recover and rebuild.

I want to thank the gentleman, my colleague, Mr. ELLISON, for offering this legislation and bringing it forward and Mr. WALZ for his leadership.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very fitting resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, first of all, to my colleague from Missouri, I thank him so much for helping manage on this. The poignant comments made by my fellow Minnesotans was heartfelt and I think put best maybe by Representative BACHMANN that this issue truly brought us together. I want to send a special thankyou to this entire body for the response that was given to the people of Minnesota in light of this tragedy.

As we speak, the dean of our delegation, Chairman OBERSTAR, is holding hearings on this very issue of bridges across America to make sure we don't have a repeat of this incident and understand everything that we can do to hopefully prevent this type of tragedy. He is meeting with Secretary of Transportation Peters and the mayor of Minneapolis, Mayor Rybak, is in town talking on this very issue.

So it is appropriate that we honor those that sacrificed and gave so much in light of this tragedy and it is appropriate that we move forward to prevent it in the future.

I also thank my colleague and friend from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) for his kind words. He is very familiar with my district. His family has roots there. He has a farm there. He knows first-hand the devastation that was wrought on those counties. We lost seven of our fellow Minnesotans. We had seven counties that are national disasters.

The response has been fantastic from both State, local and Federal officials. When you get 17 inches of rain in 24 hours, it brings great tragedy.

President Bush was kind enough and showed leadership in coming to Minnesota, promising a quick response and delivered. He also made a comment and made sure that one of our towns that was virtually destroyed, Rushford, Minnesota, needed to get back defending their State football championship. I am glad to report that they won Friday night, quite convincingly.

This disaster and the response from it, the silver lining of this is the great human qualities of compassion, courage, selfless service were shown by our first responders and everyone involved. It is a pleasure for me to put my name to a piece of legislation like this.

I thank and urge my colleagues to vote unanimously for H. Res. 606.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution honoring the city of Minneapolis, first responders and Minnesota citizens for their heroic efforts following the I–35W bridge collapse.

No Minnesotan will ever forget August 1, 2007, the day the 8-lane bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River.

No Minnesotan will forget the tragic loss of 13 people, the serious injuries and incredible devastation caused by the falling bridge.

And Minnesotans will never forget the countless acts of heroism they witnessed that day from first responders and concerned by-standers that ignored danger and rushed to help victims.

In spite of the devastation, chaos and confusion, there was a highly organized response from Minnesota officials, firefighters, law enforcement and EMS personnel, the Minnesota National Guard, the Twin Cities Red Cross, local hospitals and the individuals, charities and businesses that donated time, money and goods. It made me proud to be a Minnesotan.

America also witnessed an incredible story in the midst of that terrible disaster—the school bus on the collapsed bridge filled with children who miraculously survived the ordeal.

Our deepest gratitude goes to every person who responded to this disaster, saving lives, caring for the injured and comforting victims and their families.

A special thanks to Governor Pawlenty for his great leadership, as well as Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek, Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak, the author of this resolution, Representative KEITH ELLISON, and the dean of our Minnesota Congressional delegation, JIM OBERSTAR, for his leadership in moving bridge funding legislation last month.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring the people who responded so bravely to the Minnesota bridge collapse.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 606, introduced by my colleague from Minnesota (Mr. Ellison). I extend my gratitude for his work to introduce this resolution and bring it forth for consideration on the House floor.

On August 1, 2007, at 6:05 p.m., during the evening rush hour, the bridge on Interstate 35 W spanning the Mississippi River suddenly collapsed. The eight-lane, steel truss bridge span carried approximately 140,000 vehicles

each day. This horrific catastrophe claimed the lives of 13 people; 123 other individuals were injured.

Visions of this tragedy and the destruction left in the wake of the bridge collapse remain etched in our memories. Yet the scenes of the damage have been softened by the touching images of the hundreds of fire fighters, police officers, including the University of Minnesota police, and emergency response personnel that rushed to aid their fellow citizens. The direct actions of these civil servants and citizens immediately following this tragedy are examples of extraordinary courage.

The brave men and women who were first on the scene, and remained working around the clock after the collapse, helped to minimize the toll of this tragedy and undoubtedly saved lives. The aftermath of the collapse has also been made easier to bear with the help from over 50 organizations and local governments and a national outpouring of sympathy and prayers.

A few months ago, the people of Minnesota suffered a different kind of catastrophe: a raging forest fire. The blaze began on May 5, 2007, in the Gunflint Trail area in far northeastern Minnesota, roared across the Canadian border, and then returned to Minnesota to devastate my district. It consumed nearly 76,000 acres and destroyed 140 structures. Many first responders heeded the call to this fire. The dedicated men and women of the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department were among the first to arrive on the scene. followed by firefighters and fire departments from across the region. In all, over 1,000 personnel assisted in fighting this blaze. No lives were lost, there were only 11 minor injuries, and 759 structures were saved thanks to the efforts of these responders.

The responses to these disasters are just two examples of the countless selfless acts that our Nation's first responders carry out every day simply by doing their job. Twentyfour hours a day, every day of the year, all over this country, when any type of tragedy enters our lives, from a medical emergency facing a neighbor to a large-scale natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other incident, our Nation's emergency responders are the first on the scene to provide professional services, expert help, aid and comfort. These welltrained, highly-skilled individuals are truly on the front lines in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating damages from a variety of hazards

Across the country, the millions of men and women who serve this nation as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, including those in Minnesota, place themselves in great danger every day in order to protect each one of us. They deserve our deepest thanks and respect.

I stand with Congressman ELLISON in recognizing the outstanding work and effort of the first responders in response to the tragic bridge collapse in Minnesota and laud their unflinching dedication to duty. While we can never adequately express our gratitude to the brave men and women, this resolution is a fitting tribute.

I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the good people of Minnesota who have banded together to begin the healing process. When

that bridge fell on August 1st, every citizen of my state felt the grief and the pain together. It has certainly been a difficult month for evervone, but I am so proud of the first responders, of the volunteers, and of my colleagues here in the House. I'd like to give a special thanks to Chairman OBERSTAR, for acting so quickly. He has represented the State of Minnesota, and the House very well. I'd also like to say that Representative ELLISON has done a remarkable job in representing his district during these trying times.

It is a shame that it sometimes takes the worst events to bring out the best in people, but I am so proud of the wonderful actions Minnesotans have taken to help the victims of the I-35W Bridge. I think the people involved in the recovery actions have truly demonstrated the incredible character of Minnesota's citizens.

Nothing can replace what was lost on August 1st. No amount of money will do that. Neither will a new bridge. But the strength of the community has shown through during this long road to healing. Thank you Representative ELLISON, thank you to the members of the Minnesota Delegation and thank you to all my colleagues who have helped support the citizens of my State.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 606.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 552, by the year and nays;
- H. Res. 629, by the year and navs:
- H. Res. 508, by the year and nays;
- H. Res. 544, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5minute votes.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO UNITED STATES FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRMS DOING BUSI-NESS IN CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 552, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

Crenshaw

Hobson

the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MAR-SHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 552.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 4, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 850]

YEAS-401

Abercrombie Crowley Hodes Ackerman Hoekstra Cubin Aderholt Cuellar Holden Culberson Holt Akin Alexander Cummings Honda Allen Davis (AL) Hover Altmire Davis (CA) Hulshof Andrews Davis (IL) Inglis (SC) Arcuri Davis (KY) Inslee Davis, David Israel Baca Bachus Davis, Lincoln Issa Jackson (IL) Baird Davis, Tom Deal (GA) Baker Jackson-Lee Baldwin DeFazio (TX)Barrett (SC) Jefferson DeGette Barrow Delahunt Johnson (GA) Bartlett (MD) DeLauro Johnson (IL) Barton (TX) Dent Jones (NC) Jones (OH) Dicks Recerra Dingell Jordan Berkley Doggett Kagen Kanjorski Donnelly Berry Doolittle Kaptur Biggert Doyle Keller Bilbray Kennedy Drake Bilirakis Dreier Kildee Bishop (GA) Duncan Kilpatrick Bishop (NY) Edwards Kind King (IA) Bishop (UT) Ehlers Blackburn Ellison King (NY) Blumenauer Ellsworth Kingston Blunt Emanuel Klein (FL) Boehner Emerson Kline (MN) Bonner Engel Knollenberg English (PA) Kuhl (NY) Bono Boozman Eshoo LaHood Boren Etheridge Lamborn Boswell 8 | Everett Lampson Langevin Boucher Fallin Boustany Farr Lantos Larsen (WA) Boyd (FL) Fattah Larson (CT) Boyda (KS) Feeney Brady (PA) Ferguson Latham LaTourette Filner Brady (TX) Braley (IA) Flake Broun (GA) Forbes Levin Fortenberry Lewis (GA) Brown (SC) Brown, Corrine Fossella Lewis (KY) Brown-Waite Foxx Linder Frank (MA) Lipinski Ginny Buchanan Franks (AZ) LoBiondo Burgess Frelinghuvsen Loebsack Burton (IN) Gallegly Lofgren, Zoe Butterfield Garrett (NJ) Lowey Lungren, Daniel Buver Gerlach Calvert Giffords E. Camp (MI) Gilchrest Lynch Campbell (CA) Gillibrand Mack Cannon Gingrey Mahoney (FL) Cantor Gohmert Maloney (NY) Manzullo Capito Gonzalez Capps Goode Marchant Goodlatte Markey Marshall Capuano Cardoza Granger Carnahan Graves Matheson Carney Green, Al Matsui Green, Gene McCarthy (CA) Carson McCarthy (NY) Carter Grijalva Castle Gutierrez McCaul (TX) Castor Hall (NY) McCollum (MN) Hall (TX) Chabot McCrery McDermott Chandler Hare Clarke Harman McGovern McHenry Clay Hastert Hastings (FL) Cleaver McHugh Clyburn Hastings (WA) McIntyre Coble Hayes McKeon Cohen Heller McMorris Cole (OK) Hensarling Rodgers McNerney McNulty Conaway Herger Herseth Sandlin Convers Cooper Higgins Meek (FL) Costa Hill Meeks (NY) Hinchey Costello Melancon Courtney Hinojosa Mica Cramer Hirono Michaud

Miller (MI) Reichert Miller (NC) Renzi Miller, Gary Reves Miller, George Reynolds Mitchell Richardson Moore (KS) Rodriguez Moore (WI) Rogers (AL) Moran (KS) Rogers (KY) Moran (VA) Rogers (MI) Murphy (CT) Rohrabacher Murphy, Patrick Roskam Murphy, Tim Ross Rothman Murtha Roybal-Allard Musgrave Myrick Rush Ryan (OH) Nadler Ryan (WI) Napolitano Neal (MA) Salazar Neugebauer Sali Sánchez, Linda Nunes Oberstar Obey Sarbanes Olver Saxton Schakowsky Ortiz Schiff Pallone Pascrell Schmidt Scott (GA) Pastor Payne Scott (VA) Pearce Sensenbrenner Pence Serrano Perlmutter Sessions Peterson (MN) Sestak Peterson (PA) Shadegg Petri Shays Pickering Shea-Porter Pitts Sherman Poe Shuler Pomeroy Shuster Porter Price (GA) Simpson Sires Skelton Price (NC) Pryce (OH) Slaughter Putnam Smith (NE) Radanovich Smith (NJ) Rahall Smith (TX) Ramstad Smith (WA) Rangel Snyder Regula Rehberg Souder

Space Spratt Stark Stearns Stupak Sullivan Sutton Tanner Tauscher Taylor Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Thornberry Tiahrt Tiberi Tierney Towns Turner Udall (CO) Udall (NM) Upton Van Hollen Velázquez Visclosky Walberg Walden (OR) Walsh (NY) Walz (MN) Wamp Waters Watt Waxman Weiner Welch (VT) Weldon (FL) Westmoreland Wexler Whitfield Wicker Wilson (OH) Wilson (SC) Wolf Woolsev Wu Wynn Yarmuth Young (FL)

NAYS-4

McCotter Diaz-Balart, L. Diaz-Balart, M. Ros-Lehtinen

NOT VOTING-27

Bachmann Lewis (CA) Tancredo Davis, Jo Ann Lucas Terry Gordon Mollohan Wasserman Hooley Paul Schultz Platts Hunter Watson Jindal Royce Weller Johnson E B Ruppersberger Wilson (NM) Sanchez, Loretta Johnson, Sam Young (AK) Kirk Schwartz Kucinich Shimkus

□ 1415

Mr. McCOTTER changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. BERRY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. DAVIS of California changed their vote from "nay" to "vea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Miller (FL)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 850, I was in a meeting in my district at the National Security Agency with NSA Director, General Alexander. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONORABLE JENNIFER DUNN

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform the House of Representatives of the untimely death of our dear friend and former colleague, Jennifer Dunn, this morning.

Words cannot express the shock and sorrow that I feel today.

I know that all of you join me in keeping her family, sons Reagan, Bryant and stepson Angus Thomson, and her loving husband, Keith Thomson, in our thoughts and prayers.

All of us who have served with Jennifer Dunn in the House have known the kindness, the wit and political savvy that she embodied. She was vibrant, enjoyed life, and she always had a kind word for everyone.

She was known, Madam Speaker, as a fierce advocate when it came to supporting Republican women for election, both locally in our State of Washington and nationally.

On a personal note, for 32 years she was my friend, fellow Ronald Reagan activist, my State party chairman and colleague in the House where she served the Eighth District of Washington from 1993 to 2005.

Always positive, dignified and poised in everything that she did. A loving wife and mother, as well as a political leader with great skill.

Today, Washington State and our Nation has lost a giant, a true leader and a stateswoman in every sense of the word. Madam Speaker, she will be dearly missed.

I yield to my friend, the senior Democrat from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. I appreciate Congressman Hastings yielding to me, and I just want to echo his words. Our regrets go out to Jennifer Dunn's family, to her husband, Keith, and to her sons, Reagan, named after Ronald Reagan, by the way, and Bryant and Angus.

Jennifer Dunn was a great leader in our State. She was the first woman Republican chairman of the State Republican Party. She was elected to the Congress, was on the Ways and Means Committee. She always was willing to reach out across the aisle and work on projects. Congressman Larsen reminded me of her efforts on the Wild Sky program which was enacted this year, something she worked on for many years. She was a leader on trade issues and tax reform issues. She will be missed.

I appreciated the fact she was always willing to cross the aisle and work with Democrats or whoever to get legislation enacted. She was a great advocate for tax issues. She will be missed by all of us. We pass on our condolences to her family.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I know a number of Members want to express their views, and we will afford them that opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join the delegation from Washington State in observing a moment of silence in honor of our former colleague.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONORABLE CHARLES VANIK

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform the House that in addition to the loss of Ohio's beloved colleague PAUL GILLMOR today and former Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn, we have lost a beloved friend and indefatigable colleague when Ohio Congressman Charles Vanik passed away last week at the age of 94.

I know that Congressman REGULA and I, along with all of our delegation, feel this loss as deeply as we feel the others. I wanted to just mention to our colleagues that Congressman Vanik served from 1955 until 1981 and was affectionately known as Ohio's third Senator.

He is probably most remembered for his landmark legislation, the Jackson-Vanik amendment, that continues to connect U.S. trade policy to human rights. We in Ohio will always remember him as a true champion and leader on Medicare, Social Security and the plight of the poorest Americans.

I would like to yield to my colleague, my beloved friend, RALPH REGULA, now for some words.

Mr. REGULA. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I also would like to mention the loss of Charlie Vanik. I think for the people of Ohio, his greatest legacy is he joined John Seiberling and myself in creating the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and it was his leadership that was vital in getting that legislation passed. Millions of Ohioans and others enjoy the great outdoors in this 33,000-acre park that serves our State so well, and that was a wonderful legacy that Charlie Vanik left as part of his service in this Congress.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman. We will never forget his good humor.

I would just ask for 10 seconds to say to my colleagues in terms of my neighbor, PAUL GILLMOR, with whom I served over 20 years in this body, we just happened to be flying over Ohio this past week to assess the flood damage in his district. My last memory of him is actually climbing out of the Apache helicopter we were both in. There were just the two of us with the Ohio National Guard, and he extended his hand to me to help me get out of the helicopter after a very long day in many communities, including Bucyrus and Findlay. I have many memories, but I shall never forget that. He was a gentleman of this House.

I thank my colleagues very much.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONORABLE PAUL GILLMOR

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I know that Leader BOEHNER has already informed the House of the untimely death of our colleague, PAUL GILLMOR, but I want to just add to that. I will be offering a resolution of bereavement after we have finished the suspensions for the day, which will be very shortly, for those who might want to comment.

It is a tremendous loss for Ohio. PAUL was a leader in the Ohio senate over a number of years, 22 years to be exact. He was a leader here on the Financial Services Committee. But most importantly, he was a person who cared about the people of Ohio. He made a tremendous effort to represent them well. It is evident by a number of awards that he received and so on. I won't take the time to go into that now, but all of you knew PAUL.

I think something that many were not aware of, he was chosen as the vice president of the International NATO Group, the parliamentary group that is made up of something like 22 nations, and they elected him as the number two person in their leadership responsibilities. It is a tribute to him and to Ohio and to this body that he was chosen for that assignment.

Madam Speaker, I would like if we would all rise and recognize his loss, too, in a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE HOUSE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GREECE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 629, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 629.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 851] YEAS—407

Abercrombie Ackerman Aderholt Akin Alexander Allen Altmire Andrews Arcuri Baca Bachus Baird

September	5,	2007
Baker	Dog	yle
Baldwin	Dra	
Barrett (SC) Barrow	Dre	ncan
Bartlett (MD)		wards
Barton (TX)	Ehl	
Bean Becerra		ison sworth
Berkley		anuel
Berman	Em	erson
Berry	Eng	gel glish (PA)
Biggert Bilbray	Esh	
Bilirakis		neridge
Bishop (GA)	Eve Fal	erett
Bishop (NY) Bishop (UT)	Fai	
Blackburn		tah
Blumenauer Blunt		eney guson
Boehner	Fil	
Bonner	Fla	
Bono Boozman		rbes rtenberry
Boren		ssella
Boswell	For	
Boucher Boustany		ink (MA) inks (AZ)
Boyd (FL)		elinghuysen
Boyda (KS)		llegly
Brady (PA) Brady (TX)		rrett (NJ) rlach
Braley (IA)		fords
Broun (GA)		chrest
Brown (SC) Brown, Corrine		librand igrey
Brown-Waite,		hmert
Ginny		nzalez
Buchanan Burgess	Go	ode odlatte
Burton (IN)		rdon
Butterfield		anger
Buyer Calvert		ives
Camp (MI)		een, Al een, Gene
Campbell (CA)	Gri	jalva
Cannon Cantor		tierrez ll (NY)
Capito		ll (TX)
Capps	Hai	
Capuano Cardoza		rman stert
Carnahan		stings (FL)
Carney		stings (WA)
Carson Carter	Ha; Hel	
Castle	Hei	nsarling
Castor Chabot		rger gins
Chandler	Hil	
Clarke	Hir	nchey
Clay Cleaver		ojosa ono
Clyburn		oson
Coble	Ho	
Cohen Cole (OK)		ekstra lden
Conaway	Hol	
Conyers	Ho	
Cooper Costa	Ho	yer Ishof
Costello	Ing	lis (SC)
Courtney	Ins	
Cramer Crenshaw	Isra	
Crowley	Jac	ekson (IL)
Cubin Cuellar		ekson-Lee TX)
Cummings		ferson
Davis (AL)	Joh	nnson (GA)
Davis (CA) Davis (IL)		nson (IL) nes (NC)
Davis (KY)		nes (OH)
Davis, David		dan
Davis, David Davis, Lincoln Davis, Tom	Kas	gen njorski
Deal (GA)	Kaj	ptur
DeFazio	Kel	ller
DeGette Delahunt	Kei	nnedy dee
DeLauro	Kil	patrick
Dent Diaz-Balart I.	Kir	
Diaz-Balart, L. Diaz-Balart, M.	Kir	ng (IA) ng (NY)
Dicks	Kir	ngston
Dingell Doggett	Kir Kle	k in (FL)
Donnelly	Kli	ne (MN)
Doolittle	Kn	ollenberg

Knollenberg

Doolittle

Kuhl (NY) LaHood Lamborn Lampson Langevin Lantos Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham LaTourette Lee Levin Lewis (CA) Lewis (GA) Lewis (KY) Linder Lipinski LoBiondo Loebsack Lofgren, Zoe Lowey Lungren, Daniel E. Lvnch Mack Mahoney (FL) Maloney (NY) Manzullo Marchant Markey Marshall Matheson Matsui McCarthy (CA) McCarthy (NY) McCaul (TX) McCollum (MN) McCotter McCrery McDermott McGovern McHenry McHugh McIntyre McKeon McMorris Rodgers McNerney McNulty Meek (FL) Meeks (NY) Melancon Mica Michaud Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Miller (NC) Miller, Gary Miller, George Mitchell Moore (KS) Moore (WI) Moran (KS) Moran (VA) Murphy (CT) Murphy, Patrick Murphy, Tim Murtha Musgrave Myrick Nadler Napolitano Neal (MA) Neugebauer Nunes Oberstar Obey Olver Ortiz Pallone Pascrell Pastor Payne Pearce Pence Perlmutter Peterson (MN) Peterson (PA) Petri Pickering Pitts Poe Pomeroy Porter

Price (GA)

Price (NC)

Putnam

Pryce (OH)

Radanovich

Sensenbrenner Rahall Tiberi Ramstad Serrano Tiernev Rangel Sessions Towns Regula Sestak Turner Rehberg Shadegg Udall (CO) Shays Shea-Porter Reichert Udall (NM) Renzi Upton Reyes Sherman Van Hollen Reynolds Shuler Velázquez Richardson Shuster Visclosky Rodriguez Simpson Walberg Walden (OR) Rogers (AL) Sires Rogers (KY) Skelton Walsh (NY) Rogers (MI) Slaughter Walz (MN) Rohrabacher Smith (NE) Wamp Ros-Lehtinen Smith (NJ) Roskam Waters Ross Smith (WA) Watt Rothman Waxman Snyder Roybal-Allard Weiner Welch (VT) Ruppersberger Souder Space Rush Weldon (FL) Ryan (OH) Spratt Westmoreland Rvan (WI) Stark Wexler Salazar Stearns Whitfield Sali Stupak Wicker Sánchez, Linda Sullivan Wilson (OH) Sutton Т. Wilson (SC) Sarbanes Tanner Wolf Saxton Tauscher Woolsey Schakowsky Taylor Wu Schiff Thompson (CA) Wvnn Schmidt Thompson (MS) Yarmuth Thornberry Scott (GA) Young (FL) Scott (VA) Tiahrt NOT VOTING-Kucinich Tancredo

Bachmann Lucas Mollohan Culberson Terry Davis, Jo Ann Wasserman Herseth Sandlin Paul Schultz Hooley Platts Watson Hunter Royce Weller Jindal Sanchez, Loretta Wilson (NM) Johnson, E. B. Schwartz Young (AK) Shimkus Johnson, Sam

□ 1432

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE STRONG SECU-BETWEEN RITY ALLIANCE JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 508, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 508, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 852] YEAS-405

Abercrombie Baca Becerra Ackerman Baird Berkley Aderholt Baker Berman Akin Baldwin Berry Alexander Barrett (SC) Biggert Bilbray Allen Barrow Altmire Bartlett (MD) Bilirakis Andrews Barton (TX) Bishop (GA) Bean Bishop (NY) Arcuri

Bonner Bono Boozman Boren Boswell Boucher Boustany Boyd (FL) Boyda (KS) Brady (PA) Brady (TX) Bralev (IA) Broun (GA) Brown (SC) Brown Corrine Brown-Waite, Ginny Buchanan Burgess Burton (IN) Butterfield Buver Calvert Camp (MI) Campbell (CA) Cannon Cantor Capito Capps Capuano Cardoza Carnahan Carney Carson Carter Castle Castor Chabot Chandler Clarke Clav Cleaver Clyburn Coble Cohen Cole (OK) Conaway Convers Cooper Costa. Costello Courtney Cramer Crenshaw Crowley Cubin Cuellar Culberson Cummings Davis (AL) Davis (CA) Davis (IL) Davis (KY) Davis, David Davis, Lincoln Davis, Tom Deal (GA) DeFazio DeGette Delahunt DeLauro Dent Diaz-Balart, L. Diaz-Balart, M. Dicks Dingell Doggett Donnelly Doolittle Doyle Drake Dreier Duncan Edwards Ehlers Ellison Ellsworth Emanuel Emerson Engel English (PA) Eshoo Etheridge

Everett

Bishop (UT)

Blumenauer

Blackburn

Blunt

Boehner

Fallin Farr Fattah Feenev Ferguson Filner Flake Forbes Fortenberry Fossella Foxx Frank (MA) Franks (AZ) Frelinghuysen Gallegly Garrett (NJ) Gerlach Giffords Gilchrest Gillibrand Gingrey Gohmert Gonzalez Goode Goodlatte Gordon Granger Graves Green, Al Green Gene Grijalva Gutierrez Hall (NY) Hall (TX) Hare Harman Hastert Hastings (FL) Hastings (WA) Haves Heller Hensarling Herger Higgins Hill Hinchey Hinojosa Hirono Hobson Hodes Hoekstra Holden Holt Honda Hover Hulshof Inglis (SC) Inslee Israel Jackson (II.) Jackson-Lee (TX) Jefferson Johnson (GA) Johnson (IL) Jones (NC) Jones (OH) Jordan Kagen Kanjorski Kaptur Keller Kennedy Kildee Kilpatrick Kind King (IA) King (NY) Kingston Kirk Klein (FL) Kline (MN) Knollenberg Kuhl (NY) LaHood Lamborn Lampson Langevin Lantos Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham LaTourette Lee Levin Lewis (CA) Rogers (KY) Lewis (GA) Rogers (MI) Lewis (KY) Rohrabacher

Linder Lipinski LoBiondo Loebsack Lofgren, Zoe Lowey Lungren, Daniel Ε. Lynch Mack Mahoney (FL) Maloney (NY) Manzullo Marchant Markey Marshall Matheson Matsui McCarthy (CA) McCarthy (NY) McCaul (TX) McCollum (MN) McCotter McCrerv McDermott McGovern McHenry McHugh McIntyre McKeon McMorris Rodgers McNerney McNulty Meek (FL) Meeks (NY) Melancon Mica Michaud Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Miller (NC) Miller, Gary Miller, George Mitchell Moore (KS) Moore (WI) Moran (KS) Moran (VA) Murphy (CT) Murphy, Patrick Murphy, Tim Murtha Musgrave Myrick Nadler Napolitano Neal (MA) Neugebauer Nunes Oberstar Obey Olver Ortiz Pallone Pascrell Pastor Payne Pearce Pence Perlmutter Peterson (MN) Peterson (PA) Petri Pickering Pitts Poe Pomeroy Porter Price (GA) Price (NC) Pryce (OH) Putnam Radanovich Rahall Ramstad Rangel Regula Rehberg Reichert Renzi Reyes Reynolds Richardson Rodriguez Rogers (AL)

Marshall

Matheson

McCarthy (CA)

Matsui

lch (VT) ldon (FL) stmoreland son (OH) son (SC) ang (FL)

Everett

Fallin

Fattah

Flake

Forbes

Fossella.

Foxx

Fortenberry

Ferguson Filner

Farr

NOT VOTING-27

□ 1442

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ANDPLEDGING SUPPORT FOR VIC-TIMS OF SEVERE FLOODING IN EASTERN KANSAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 544, on which the year and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 853] YEAS-397

Abercrombie	Baker	Bilbray
Ackerman	Baldwin	Bilirakis
Aderholt	Barrett (SC)	Bishop (GA)
Akin	Barrow	Bishop (NY)
Alexander	Bartlett (MD)	Bishop (UT)
Allen	Barton (TX)	Blackburn
Altmire	Bean	Blumenauer
Andrews	Becerra	Blunt
Arcuri	Berkley	Boehner
Baca	Berman	Bonner
Bachus	Berry	Bono
Baird	Biggert	Boozman

NGRESSIO	NAL RE
Boren	Frank (MA)
Boswell	Franks (AZ)
Boucher	Frelinghuysen
Boustany Boyd (FL)	Gallegly Garrett (NJ)
Boyda (KS)	Gerlach
Brady (PA)	Giffords
Brady (TX)	Gillibrand
Braley (IA)	Gingrey
Broun (GA)	Gohmert
Brown (SC)	Gonzalez
Brown, Corrine	Goode
Brown-Waite,	Goodlatte Gordon
Ginny Buchanan	Granger
Burgess	Graves
Burton (IN)	Green, Al
Butterfield	Green, Gene
Buyer	Grijalva
Calvert	Gutierrez
Camp (MI)	Hall (NY)
Cannon Cantor	Hall (TX) Hare
Capito	Harman
Capps	Hastert
Capuano	Hastings (FL)
Cardoza	Hastings (WA)
Carney	Hayes
Carson	Heller
Carter	Hensarling
Castle Castor	Herger
Chabot	Higgins Hill
Chandler	Hinchey
Clarke	Hinojosa
Clay	Hirono
Cleaver	Hobson
Clyburn	Hodes
Coble	Hoekstra
Cohen Cole (OK)	Holden Holt
Conaway	Honda
Conyers	Hoyer
Cooper	Hulshof
Costa	Inglis (SC)
Costello	Inslee
Courtney Cramer	Israel Issa
Crenshaw	Jackson (IL)
Crowley	Jackson-Lee
Cubin	(TX)
Cuellar	Jefferson
Culberson Cummings	Johnson (GA) Johnson (IL)
Davis (AL)	Jones (NC)
Davis (CA)	Jones (OH)
Davis (IL)	Jordan
Davis (KY)	Kagen
Davis, David	Kanjorski
Davis, Lincoln Davis, Tom	Keller Kennedy
Deal (GA)	Kildee
DeFazio	Kilpatrick
DeGette	Kind
Delahunt	King (IA)
DeLauro	King (NY)
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Dicks	Kline (MN)
Dingell	Knollenberg
Doggett	Kuhl (NY)
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Doolittle Doyle	Lampson
Drake	Langevin
Dreier	Lantos
Duncan	Larsen (WA)
Edwards Ehlers	Latham LaTourette
Ellison	Lee
Ellsworth	Levin
Emanuel	Lewis (CA)
Emerson	Lewis (GA)
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McCarthy (NY) McCaul (TX) McCollum (MN)

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Maloney (NY)

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Bachmann	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Campbell (CA)	Kucinich	Schwartz
Carnahan	Larson (CT)	Shays
Davis, Jo Ann	Loebsack	Shimkus
Feeney	Lucas	Tancredo
Gilchrest	Mollohan	Terry
Herseth Sandlin	Paul	Wasserman
Hooley	Platts	Schultz
Hunter	Radanovich	Watson
Jindal	Ros-Lehtinen	Weller
Johnson, E. B.	Royce	Wilson (NM)
Johnson, Sam	Sali	Young (AK)

□ 1449

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ALL WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO AND FAMILIES CHILDREN OF **MEMBERS** OF THEARMED FORCES

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) recognizing and commending all volunteers and other persons who provide support to the families and children of members of the Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are deployed in service to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Whereas there are 1.2 million children who are the sons or daughters of members of the Armed Forces, including more than 153,000 children of members of reserve components, and more than one third of these children are under the age of five;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces, and in particular their children, provide unconditional love and support to their loved ones serving in the Armed Forces before, during, and after their deployment:

Whereas the Department of Defense recognizes that the family of a deployed member of the Armed Forces also serves and has made a commitment to military families by establishing goals for a New Social Compact with members of the Armed Forces and their families:

Whereas the Government makes significant resources available to families and children of members of the Armed Forces who reside on or near a military installation, however, resources for families and children of deployed Reserve and National Guard members are often difficult to access because the families do not reside near a military installation;

Whereas a number of nonprofit organizations have dedicated themselves to ensuring that children of military families receive the support they urgently need while they cope with the deployment of parents, in particular by providing essential extracurricular activities and programs for school-aged children of deployed Reserve and National Guard members;

Whereas these organizations include Our Military Kids, Inc., Parents as Teachers, Citizen Soldier Support program, Operation Homefront Inc., American Military Families, Inc., and Kids Serve 2; and

Whereas these programs and organizations have helped children of deployed members of the Armed Forces maintain as normal a life as possible by allowing funds to be used for a range of activities that might otherwise be unavailable to them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and commends all volunteers and other persons who provide support to the families and children of members of the Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are deployed in service to the United States and honors military families and the non-governmental organizations that support them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we have the chance to thank the volunteers of non-profit organizations who provide support for families and children of deployed members of the Armed Forces for their extraordinary contributions to those families.

I want to thank Congressman Tom DAVIS, Congressman JOE WILSON and others for their contributions and for helping us bring this resolution to the floor. The families of United States troops serve this Nation by providing unconditional love and support for their deployed loved ones. While the government offers significant resources on military installations, when families live far away from a base, it is very hard to access those opportunities.

True patriots look at this kind of situation and ask, what can I do for my military families? That's what the patriots did who founded Our Military Kids, Kids Serve 2, and several other organizations that recognize and support military families.

These organizations' founders recognized the families' contributions and identified the need to provide opportunities and resources for their families, especially for the families and children of deployed Guard and Reserve troops.

The organizations' contributions are so significant that in May, General David Petraeus, the United States Army Commanding General of the Multinational Force-Iraq, personally thanked Our Military Kids for their great work and support for Guard and Reserve troops' families.

Our Military Kids is a nonprofit organization which is wholly devoted to offering financial resources and grants for children K-12 of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard personnel. Our Military Kids helps families participate in sports, arts and tutoring programs that are so important to children during those stressful times.

Today my resolution puts the House of Representatives on record as supporting the excellent work these nonprofit groups do to support the children and families of deployed troops. I ask the House to support this resolution and thank the founders and volunteers at Our Military Kids and at the other nongovernmental groups that support military families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the May 8 letter from General Petraeus be included for the RECORD.

MAY 8, 2007.

LINDA DAVIDSON, Executive Director, Our Military Kids, McLean, Virginia.

DEAR Ms. DAVIDSON: On behalf of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen serving in Iraq, especially our Reserve and National Guard component forces, I want to thank you for the support of your wonderful organization, Our Military Kids.

We ask a lot of today's military families. And I know that families of National Guard and Reserve forces, in particular, often feel a strain when their loved ones are called to active duty. These troopers not only leave their families at home, but they also leave their civilian jobs, adding financial stress to the other stresses associated with deployment. The support your organization provides through generous financial grants helps to mitigate that financial stress. In doing so, you are making tough deployments that much easier on the forces deployed and their families at home. I applaud the efforts of your organization.

Thanks again for the important assistance you provide to our servicemembers and their families.

Sincerely,

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{DAVID H. Petraeus,} \\ \textit{General, U.S. Army, Commanding.} \end{array}$

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 181, a resolution authored by Congressman Solomon Ortiz, a dedicated member of the Armed Services Committee who is a proven friend of servicemembers and their families.

This resolution commends a large group of selfless and dedicated people, many of whom are volunteers, in organizations that provide support to the families and children of deployed Members of the armed forces.

As a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserve and National Guard, and as the proud father of four sons in the military, I know firsthand the rewards of service protecting American families and learning valuable skills.

Our military families face extraordinary demands, stresses and challenges related to the service of their loved ones. Every soldier, sailor, airman and marine understands the challenges they will face as well as the sacrifices their families must also make. These include extended deployments, risk of injury and death, frequent relocations, long and unpredictable hours, and the unfamiliar customs and lifestyles of foreign lands.

Many military families have multiple family members, which substantially outnumber the servicemembers themselves. According to a recent Army report, there are more than 1.8 million family members compared to 1.3 million active duty personnel. Beyond the statistics, however, is the reality that supporting and meeting the needs of military families is a matter of military readiness.

Every branch of the military as well as the Department of Defense provide significant resources to the spouses and children of members of the Armed Forces. Much of the excellent support is provided on and through military installations.

Actually, most military families do not live on military installations. Nearly two-thirds of the active duty Army family members live off post, and for virtually all the families of National Guard troops and reservists who reside in civilian communities, there is the challenge of ensuring access to the support they need, particularly during extended periods of mobilization and deployment.

To ensure that military families get the proper support wherever they live, numerous nongovernmental organizations have sprung up. This extraordinary community of volunteer and nonvolunteer groups seek to ease the challenges and promote the extraordinary opportunities of military life in many ways. For example, some of their efforts include providing essential extracurricular activities for school-aged children, assisting new parents, building support systems in school districts not located on military installations, building bridges between local communities and military families to improve access to State and local services, and providing emergency and financial assistance.

Today's resolution, introduced by my colleague, Representative SOLOMON ORTIZ, is a fitting way to celebrate and thank such organizations as Our Military Kids, Parents As Teachers, Kids Serve 2, Operation Homefront, American Military Family, and the Citizen Soldier Support Program, along with other volunteer groups who help families and children of deployed members of the Armed Forces maintain as normal a life as possible.

Again, as a 31-year veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard and having a son, Alan, who served for a year in Iraq as a member of the Army National Guard, I have seen firsthand the many challenges and opportunities our National Guard troops and their families face.

Many members of my former unit, the 218th Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Bob Livingston and currently stationed in Afghanistan, have families and loved ones that can benefit from the types of assistance these organizations and programs provide.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 181 and to recognize and commend all the volunteers and others who help to take care of our military families and children. This new greatest generation deserves our support and assistance whenever and wherever we can be of service.

Additionally, with personal sadness, my sympathy to the families of our late colleagues, PAUL GILLMOR of Ohio and Jennifer Dunn of Washington State.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the

Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 181, a resolution to honor the efforts of those volunteers that support military families when a servicemember is deployed.

It is a superhuman task to fight for your country and take care of your family from thousands of miles away. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and not-for-profit organizations across the country, deployments are made somewhat easier. Volunteers give their time, energy, and, most importantly, their prayers.

□ 1500

Some offer their time at after school programs, others may help around the

house. However, no matter what they give, the difference they make in the lives of our military families is immeasurable.

Many nonprofit groups go beyond and provide backpacks, clothes and emergency funds to help military families. Beyond helping families in time of emergency, these organizations help with the problems associated with everyday life.

In particular, I'd like to recognize Hernando Home Front for their work with the families of the National Guard members who were activated from Brooksville, Florida. Whether they were builders, who helped in case the spouse had a problem, either a leaking roof or perhaps a plumbing problem that needed fixing, or just plain simple carpentry, this group was there. The home builders, various people throughout the community pitched in to help the family members of those National Guard units that were called up.

Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform give everything for their country, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize those who care enough to give back to them.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 181, a resolution I was proud to cosponsor with my colleague Congressman ORTIZ, which recognizes and commends the many thousands of volunteers who provide support to the families of deployed military personnel, including those serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

We make significant resources available to families and children of members of the Armed Forces who reside on or near military installations. But resources for families and children of National Guard and Reserve members are often difficult to access. Of the 1.2 million young sons and daughters of members of the Armed Forces, approximately 153,000 are children of those serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

These children also need help when parents deploy. The heroic work of these volunteers stresses the importance of maintaining child-hood routines during times of stress and sacrifice. Grants supporting extra-curricular activities, including tutoring, sports, art, camping and other educational opportunities that might be missing when a parent is gone, keep families active and linked to their communities. The help and support provided by these organizations tells military families, particularly the children, that they have not been left behind, but that we all recognize the personal sacrifices they are making when their family serves in the military.

It's gratifying that many private non-profit organizations have been created by caring and thoughtful Americans to help fill this gap for Guard and Reserve children. This resolution recognizes and honors their work.

One outstanding example is an organization called Our Military Kids, Inc, created by Linda Davidson and Gail Krusel of McLean, Virginia. It is a small corporation that has continued to expand nationally, providing assistance and grants to the children of deployed or severely-injured parents in over 35 states this year. The positive effect they have had on children of the National Guard and Reserve cannot be overstated.

I salute the people behind Our Military Kids, Inc., and other organizations that have dedicated time, effort and money to assist our nation's military children. I ask my colleagues to stand up and join us in this resolution honoring their commitment and patriotic service.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 181 which recognizes and commends all volunteers and other persons who provide support to the families and children of members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are deployed in defense of the United States. I appreciate the work of my dear friend and our colleague, Congressman Solomon ORTIZ, in bringing this resolution to the floor today and commend him for his leadership on issues affecting military families. Congressman ORTIZ is Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. I think it is important to highlight that family readiness is first and foremost a readiness issue for our Armed Forces.

Never was this more apparent than on Congressman ORTIZ' recent Congressional Delegation to Guam in April 2007. The Congressional Delegation had the opportunity to meet with families and servicemembers of the Guam National Guard and Army Reserve. The Congressional Delegation heard firsthand accounts about the difficulties and challenges that are faced by military families during mobilization. The Congressional Delegation also heard how the families view their role in support of the soldier and reviewed the services that are available to them when a loved one is deployed. The testimonials of these families proved that our Nation is better served when families of deployed servicemembers are provided the best support and assistance at all times and from a variety of sources.

The Congressional Delegation also had the opportunity to meet with volunteers who help support families of Guard personnel and Reservists. It is volunteers that make the National Guard and Reserve family readiness programs a success. Volunteers in these readiness groups act as an extension of the unit by providing accurate command information. Most of the volunteers are the spouses of company commanders. The close ties of volunteers to company leadership also help foster a greater sense of community with shared benefits and help families navigate various issues at any time, but especially when a loved one is deployed. Without the support of thousands of volunteers across the country, many family readiness groups would not be able to provide the support that is needed for servicemembers families. It is important for these volunteers and the Congress to recognize the important role they fulfill in the readiness of our Armed Forces.

On Guam our families have recently endured many long deployments of their loved ones to the Horn of Africa and to other areas of the world associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Volunteers have been crucial to the success of these family readiness efforts. In particular, in 2002 the Department of Defense recognized the family readiness group of Charlie Company, 411th Engineer Battalion of the Army Reserve for their instrumental service in

improving many facets of unit readiness, including a 99 percent retention rate and 90 percent attendance rate for drill. The family readiness group engaged in many community activities and each member attended special events of importance to the other families. It was these initiatives and community activities that helped bring the families of the deployed soldiers together and made enduring the long deployment more bearable.

The recognition awarded to the Charlie Company emphasizes the critical importance of providing the best family support possible during deployments. When families of the deployed soldiers are taken care of it relieves our soldiers of worrying about their daily tasks at home and helps them to focus on the mission at hand. Indeed, the readiness of our men and women in uniform goes beyond providing the best equipment or training that is available. It is required that we provide a strong sense of community for their families at all times. Family readiness must be viewed as a continuum of support that continues beyond a servicemember's mobilization. Without volunteers who donate countless hours to this effort, family assistance would not be as effective and the readiness of our Armed Forces would not be as strong as they are today. House Concurrent Resolution 181 raises appropriate awareness of the readiness of our Armed Forces and the value of military families. I hope that all of us will recognize the important ways in which families and family readiness groups contribute to the strength of our Nation's Armed Forces.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, at this time I don't have any further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 181.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE AND COURAGE OF THOSE WHO WERE KILLED IN THE CRANDALL CANYON MINE DISASTER, AND RECOGNIZING THE RESCUE CREWS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 631) honoring the sacrifice and courage of the six missing miners and three rescuers who were killed in the Crandall Canyon mine disaster in Utah, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 631

Whereas on August 6, 2007, six miners, Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez, and Jose Luis Hernandez, were trapped 1,800 feet below ground in the Crandall Canyon mine in Utah;

Whereas Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked relentlessly in an attempt to locate and rescue the trapped miners;

Whereas three rescuers, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale "Bird" Black lost their lives during the rescue attempt:

Whereas the loss of the miners has had a tremendous effect on the local community;

Whereas the emergency efforts coordinated by the Emery County Sheriff's Department have been exemplary;

Whereas Utah is one of the largest coal producing States in the Nation, producing over 21 million tons of coal in 2005;

Whereas coal continues to be the economic engine for many communities;

Whereas during the last century over 100,000 coal miners have been killed in mining accidents in the Nation's coal mines;

Whereas the Nation is greatly indebted to coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work they perform to provide the fuel needed to operate the Nation's industries and to provide energy to homes and businesses: and

Whereas many residents of Emery County and Carbon County, Utah, and the surrounding areas, came together to support the miners' families and the community has been steadfast in its efforts to help the families of the missing and deceased: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the House-

- (1) recognizes Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez, Jose Luis Hernandez, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale "Bird" Black for their sacrifice in the Crandall Canyon, Utah coal mine;
- (2) extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;
- (3) recognizes the many volunteers who participated in the rescue efforts and provided support for the miners' families during the rescue operations; and
- (4) honors the long national heritage of coal mining families and supports the tradition for the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 631 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is sponsored by Representative MATHESON from Utah where, just last month, six miners and three rescuers were lost in a mine tragedy at the Crandall Canyon mines.

Let me begin by expressing the horror and outrage I felt as I, like millions of other Americans, watched this tragedy unfold last month. First, six min-

ers, working some 1,500 feet underground, were trapped when the mine collapsed. And then three rescuers were killed as they mounted a dangerous operation to rescue their fellow miners. The operation was so dangerous it was actually called off.

The Crandall Canyon disaster joins the other mine tragedies that have occurred in the last 2 years. My heart goes out to the families of the lost miners. My heart goes out to the rescuers who were also killed at Crandall Canyon.

This tragedy is compounded by the fact that the administration and the mining industry have not taken the necessary steps to stop them. There is a background piece on mine safety actually that has been prepared by the staff of the Education and Labor Committee and is available on the committee Web site. I really hope that Members will access this information. The paper actually provides background on the situation prior to the year 2006, the accidents that year, the enactment of the MINER Act, and the work of the committee so far this year. It also includes a summary of the legislation introduced in June of this year by Chairman MILLER, by Chairman RA-HALL, myself and others that are particularly relevant to the incident in Crandall Canyon. And this piece has some initial thoughts on the lessons of Crandall Canyon.

The full committee will be holding a hearing on the Crandall Canyon incident on October 3. Thereafter, the committee will be holding a markup on the legislation on which my subcommittee held a legislative hearing just before the recess. I hope all Members on both sides of the aisle will join us in our effort to bring the mine safety and health laws of this country into the 21st century.

But today, we are not here to talk about deficiencies in the laws or in problems with particular mine operators; rather, we're here to honor those whose lives were lost in this tragedy, all those who tried bravely to rescue them, honoring their families and all who lent a helping hand.

I know Representative MATHESON spent hours at the site and with the families, and I commend him for his hard work and courage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join both of my colleagues from Utah, as well as, apparently, the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee in expressing our profound sympathies for the Utah families who lost their loved ones at the Crandall Canyon mine. I'm not a miner, but I have been told that unless one has been a miner, it's impossible to understand the profession, the mindset and the courage that is displayed by those who work daily under dangerous conditions so that the rest of us can live in an element of comfort.

Today, this body honors six competent, courageous men who labored to

provide a better future for their families and all of us.

On August 6, the Crandall Canyon mine experienced a shift in the Earth that registered a 4 on the Richter scale at the nearby University of Utah. This left almost 2,000 feet of debris between the working area of the mine and the last known location of these miners. Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Luis Hernandez, Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips and Manuel Sanchez were lost in this catastrophe.

In addition, three very courageous heroes sacrificed their lives to rescue their fellow miners. Only miners fully understand this commitment to those they consider brothers. Dale Black, Brandon Kimber, Gary Jensen, miners and a mine safety official lost their lives during this rescue effort. We cannot also forget the five other miners and the Mine Safety and Health Administration officials who were injured in this effort.

Dozens of miners and officials put their life at risk by entering this mine to try and find and recover their colleagues, and over a period of 4 weeks the rescue efforts tried to reach these men through the working section of the mine, as well as horizontally, with seven bore holes drilled in a vain attempt to find the trapped miners. This self-sacrifice has been demonstrated throughout mining history.

I have the firm belief that this life is not finite, and we shall all be reunited again; that these noble men who lost their lives will be reunited with their loved ones in the future. And though the separation may be short, it is extremely difficult for those left behind to bear that separation.

I applaud our colleague, Congressman MATHESON, for introducing this resolution, one which deals with the sympathy for those who were involved in this particular effort and as an effort to try and comfort them at this particular time.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. And I would like to recognize and thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member McKeon of the House Education and Labor Committee for their support of this resolution and enabling us to move it to the floor so quickly. I'd also very much like to thank both of my colleagues from Utah, Mr. BISHOP and Mr. CANNON, who are here on the floor today also in support of this resolution. And I'd like to acknowledge the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, who is here also to speak on this resolution today.

I rise today to honor the sacrifice and the courage of six missing miners and the three rescuers who died in a mine disaster at the Crandall Canyon coal mine in Huntington, Utah just a few weeks ago. It was in the early hours of August 6, the six miners were trapped when rocks and debris exploded off the walls of the tunnel where they were working more than 1,800 feet underground. And the cave-in created a ground shock that measured 3.9 on the Richter scale at the University of Utah's seismographic center. Very quickly, rescue crews assembled in an effort to locate and reach the six men, but, to date, Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez and Jose Luis Hernandez are still missing.

Ground movement, what miners calls bumps or bounces, continued at the mine. During the rescue attempt further disaster struck. Three rescue miners, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale "Bird" Black were killed when once again underground activity caused a burst of rubble to explode off the cavern walls. Rescuers had to literally dig with their hands to get their colleagues out from beneath piles of coal and rocks. Their efforts saved another six rescuers who were injured but are thankfully recovering.

Throughout this catastrophe the local community has remained stead-fast. The Emery County Sheriff, his deputies and other first responders worked round the clock to maintain order as private, State and Federal teams maintained the search effort.

Community leaders and the families of these mining towns in Emery and Carbon Counties came together to support the trapped miners' families, the rescuers and the emergency crews. They did what they have always done in coal country during hard times; they held each other close, they hoped, and they prayed.

Today the House honors the missing and the dead. We extend condolences of our Nation to their families. We recognize the many volunteers who rushed to their aid and who provided endless hours of compassionate support.

And finally, we honor the proud heritage of coal mining families. Their skill, their hard work and their dedication contributes to the prosperity and quality of life that each and every one of us enjoys.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the senior member of our delegation to, once again, signify and symbolize the unity that the entire State feels as we face this disaster. I yield as much time as he may consume to Mr. Cannon of Utah

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank first of all my colleague, Rob Bishop, for yielding me time and my colleague, Jim Matheson, for bringing this resolution before us. We appreciate his introduction. This is an area that he represents. It is an area that I have represented in the past. It's an area which I expect to represent in the future if we get the fourth, if the Senate will act on giving a vote to the District of Columbia and a fourth seat to the State of Utah.

I rise in support of this resolution and in support of the thousands of miners throughout Utah and the rest of the United States and throughout the world who undertake this difficult and dangerous work.

After weeks of watching demonstrations, videos and explanations of the process, no American can doubt the courage and dedication of these brave men and women who work in darkness so that the rest of us can work with light.

John Wayne defined courage the way a miner would define it. "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway." The miners of Utah saddle up every day, and they deserve our thanks.

Miners Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez and Jose Luis Hernandez all "saddled up" in the best traditions of Utah and make us proud.

□ 1515

The tragedy on August 6 is indelibly imprinted on the hearts and minds of all Utahns. But as it always has in times of need, America's best responded. The rescue effort spared no expense and left no stone unturned in trying to reach the six sons of Utah trapped below. In the process three rescuers lost their lives and more were injured.

Americans should take heart to know that we have such men as Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale "Bird" Black who would risk their lives for others. The Bible tells us that greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for another. Imagine the love, dedication, and courage it takes to lay down one's life for a friend or stranger.

In moments such as these, politicians tend to try to do too much and accomplish too little. While there will be time to decide what, if anything, we need to do to ensure that such tragedies as these can be averted, now is the time for elected representatives for the people to thank those involved on behalf of the people.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The true test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops, no, but the kind of man the country turns out." Utah and America turn out the best, and for that we thank their families, our communities, and Almighty God.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. I thank my colleague from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for yielding and for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I also can sympathize and empathize with what my colleagues Mr. MATHESON and Mr. BISHOP and Mr. CANNON have said and the experience through which they have been the last month or longer.

Mr. Speaker, coal mining is a dangerous occupation. Many of these individuals, these brave, courageous individuals that work in coal fields across our Nation and especially those in the Appalachian coal fields that I have the honor of representing will go to work before the sun comes up. They will not see their loved ones again until after the sun has gone down. They will do this for 5, 6, even 7 days a week, never seeing the light of day so that our Nation, as the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) has said, will be able to have light, so that those in the big cities who automatically turn on their air conditioning and their lights every morning can reflect on from where that power comes.

We in West Virginia have known our share of tragedies, and it is unfortunate that when we look back over the history of our mine safety laws in this Nation that it has taken a tragedy for the Congress to act. It is unfortunate that every mine safety and health law on the books today is written with the blood of our Nation's coal miners. Congress has responded. We did respond, as has been referred to already, in passing the MINER Act after the West Virginia disasters of Sago and Aracoma in my district, and I hope that we will respond again.

The gentlewoman from California has referred to the mine safety legislation introduced by the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. MIL-LER, and myself and several other Members of Congress in a bipartisan fashion. This builds upon the MINER Act that this Congress passed and, yes, President Bush signed into law. While I agree we do not know the causes of this latest disaster and we know a little more about the causes of the West Virginia disasters over a year ago, it is important that we take a look at those responsible for enforcing our mine safety laws in this country, those at MSHA, currently serving under a recess appointment director. And it is important that we beef up that agency, that we do all we can within this Congress's power to give them the morale, the authority, and the knowledge that they must enforce our mine safety laws without fears of retribution, that there cannot be the cozy relationships that perhaps have existed in the past between those who inspect our mines and those who operate our mines. That relationship, if it has existed, must no longer exist.

But that is getting into what comes down the pipe later on. What we are here today to do is to praise those miners that lost their lives, all of our Nation's coal miners, in fact, and to pray for their families. We also especially recognize those three brave individuals that went into the bowels of this Earth to try to rescue and find their friends and their fellow workers and lost their lives in the process of trying to save other lives, those mine rescuers. That tragedy was most unfortunate and only made the original tragedy that much worse.

So I join with my colleagues in offering our prayers, in offering our sympathies to the families of the lost miners as well as the rescuers because myself, having spent time with coal miners' families while they wait word from below as to the fate of their loved ones, it is a cruel experience that no individual should have to experience. But, unfortunately, unless the Congress acts and even when we do act, it may yet occur again because mining is a dangerous occupation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 631 and to honor the memories of the miners who lost their lives in the Crandall Canyon mine accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with the miners' families and with those miners and the Mine Safety Health Administration personnel killed as well as those injured in subsequent rescue operations.

The Committee on Education and Labor has announced an investigatory hearing for October 3 to begin examining the circumstances surrounding the Crandall Canyon mining accident, including the response to the accident by the Mine Safety Health Administration and other stakeholders. Only then will we be able to determine what steps Congress should take in the aftermath of the Crandall Canyon tragedy to further ensure the safety of our Nation's miners.

As a former member of the South Carolina Mining Council, I plan to continue to track this issue closely. I am committed to maintaining the openness and integrity of this process so that the issue of miner protection receives the fair and comprehensive consideration it deserves.

Coal miners have a very dangerous job, and it is our role to ensure that the conditions in which they work are as safe as possible. We renew our commitment to examining our Nation's mining laws to ensure they are protective for the changing mining environment.

Last year, in the wake of the Sago and other mine disasters, Congress worked in a bipartisan fashion to pass the MINER Act. That legislation took significant steps to improve mining safety. It requires the Mine Safety Health Administration to revise its penalties, increase penalties for major violations to \$220,000, undertake several studies regarding mining practices, and to work to improve the technology for communications underground.

No law passed by Congress can console the families of those who have lost loved ones as a result of this tragedy. In the coming months, we will thoroughly review what happened at Crandall Canyon and what steps may be considered to prevent it from happening again. But today we are here to

mourn the tragic loss of life at that mine in Utah and pay our respects to the families of these brave miners.

Kerry Allred, Dale Black, Don Erickson, Gary Jensen, Luis Hernandez, Brandon Kimber, Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, and Manuel Sanchez. We honor these men today, express our condolences to their families, and recognize the important work of the rescuers who volunteered to enter the mine to try to rescue their fellow miners.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, though the structure of these resolutions require a Republican and Democrat both to present legislation, on this day when we deal with an issue of comfort, not on politics, this day we are all united as we honor these miners who were trapped and those who worked to find these men. We grieve with their families in our hearts, our prayers, our thoughts. The memory of these nine men will not diminish, and I urge all my colleagues to join with Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CANNON, and myself in supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 631.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE PAUL E. GILLMOR,
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF OHIO

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 632) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 632

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Paul E. Gillmor, a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my colleague, who is the senior member of the Democrat delegation, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague PAUL GILLMOR of Tiffin, Ohio. PAUL GILLMOR was a leader in Ohio. He was elected five times by his colleagues in the Ohio Senate as a leader and was President of the Ohio Senate three times.

He was a leader here in this House on financial issues, focusing effectively on legislation to protect the general public. Additionally, PAUL's leadership extended beyond Ohio and Congress to his position as Vice President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

His awards from grateful constituents and community groups he represented were powerful evidence of PAUL's diligent efforts on behalf of those who depended on his caring representation on their behalf. Five Ohio colleges and universities honored his outstanding leadership with honorary degrees.

In addition, he served his country as a captain in the Air Force with active duty during the Vietnam conflict from 1965 to 1966. Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan Law School are proud to claim him as an alumnus.

□ 1530

Our sympathy goes out to PAUL'S wife, Karen, and his five children.

To those of us who cherished him not only as a colleague, but as a friend, we will long remember PAUL and will always be grateful that he was part of our life

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would very much like to thank the dean of the Republican delegation from Ohio, Congressman RALPH REGULA, a dear friend, for helping to organize this very special moment tonight in honor of our friend and colleague from Ohio, Representative PAUL GILLMOR, who last evening succumbed to a call that will greet us all. We never know the time nor the hour.

I understand that PAUL flew back to Washington yesterday with several of his colleagues. And sometimes we wonder why things happen the way they do, but he was able to speak with several of them upon his return to Washington after having spent most of August with his family in Ohio. That itself is a gift.

It is with shock and sadness that we on this side of the aisle extend heartfelt sympathy to the Gillmor family. To his wife, Karen, I can't tell you how many White House Christmas parties I recall sharing with her, our travels to Mexico long before the passage of

NAFTA as we evaluated the situation on the ground. Those are memories that I will hold forever.

To the five Gillmor children, PAUL was a very, very dedicated father. I recall one time I was going into Channel 11, our CBS affiliate, I'll probably get in trouble for saying this, the other affiliates won't be mentioned, even though it didn't happen in their stations, and PAUL had one of his sons with him that day, and he was so polite. And we were talking about where he was going to school. PAUL tried to be with his family, especially with his younger children, as much as he could.

He suffered great tragedy in his own life, serving in Vietnam as a Captain in the Air Force in that very troubled conflict. I'm sure that he carried memories and wounds from that. And then having lost his first wife in a tragic automobile accident, having to survive that and continue to serve.

He dedicated his life to public service. Many people I don't think realize what a wealthy man he was. He didn't have to be here in the Congress. He could have checked out long ago. But in the tradition of service that his family represented and very deep, deep roots in Buckeye land in Ohio, he served his country not just in the Air Force, but in the Ohio Senate where he was the majority leader, and finally, the people of the Fifth Congressional District in this House since 1989, a decade and a half.

There are many pieces of legislation for which he exhibited leadership. One of those dealt with brownfields, a problem well known in a State like Ohio, and trying to move legislation in order to convert those over for reuse. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Subcommittee Chair during a portion of his career, he made a real national contribution there.

Together, we worked on saving the 180th Tactical Fighter Squadron of the Army Air National Guard in our districts. When gerrymandering occurred a few years ago and the districts were redrawn, literally, he ended up with one half of the airport and I ended up with the other half. And I thought, oh, this is interesting. So we were very successful in our efforts there. And without question, that particular unit, which will be returning to Ohio this week, is returning to a facility that he helped to save. One of my memories is that before their departure about four months ago, PAUL and I were there together wishing every single one of the members of that unit Godspeed and a quick return to our country.

There were many times that we spent together in our region of the State. Just last week, PAUL and I appeared in Findlay, Ohio as a result of the tragic 1,000-year flooding that occurred up in our area. Congressman JIM JORDAN was there as well from Urbana, Ohio. And then PAUL and I met with Secretary Chertoff. We were planning meetings here upon our return here this week. And we talked about the need for

FEMA to be more responsive to the needs of this region. And we then took an Apache helicopter with General Wayt from the Ohio National Guard and we flew over to Bucyrus, just the two of us together in that helicopter. And we were pointing out different reservoirs and different dams and different things that had to be done in order to prevent this type of tragedy again. And we met with the mayor of Bucyrus and with the county commissioners there and the emergency management officials. We had quite a visit. And then PAUL and I got back on the Apache helicopter and we flew back to Findlay, Ohio where his sister was waiting for him at the airport. And they were on to the next stop. I think he was headed over to Ottawa, Ohio in his district, which had also been very, very badly flooded.

I see Congressman JORDAN over there. I never knew that when we were in Findlay, Ohio together, we kind of grabbed hands and tried to deal with the flooding in your district as well, that that would be the last time that we would do that together.

So we had many memories that we share of Paul's service. And I offer the consolation and the condolences of the people from the Ninth Congressional District, which literally wraps its arms around the northern part of Paul's district, to his family, to his friends, to his colleagues, and to say we are there in dutiful service to do what is necessary to transition in these very difficult days and months ahead.

I want to say personally to Karen, his wife, that I value our friendship. And many of us who have reached the age we are know what a loss this is, and we are praying for you, we are praying for your children, we are praying for your family.

I wanted to extend the opportunity for our dear colleague from Tennessee, Congressman JOHN TANNER, who is down here on the floor, who wanted to offer words on behalf of PAUL GILLMOR whatever time he wishes to consume. I yield him such time.

Mr. TANNER. Thank you very much, Ms. KAPTUR.

I just felt compelled to come down here. And Mr. REGULA, I thank you for taking this time.

I guess I've traveled more with PAUL GILLMOR than any other Member. We have traveled together on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly business for at least the last 9 or 10 years, and that's two or three trips a year to the parliamentary meetings of NATO. And during that time, not only have my wife, Betty Ann, and his wife, Karen, become close friends, but I don't have or didn't have a closer friend in Congress than PAUL GILLMOR.

He was not only an extraordinarily talented individual who made people comfortable around him, but he also had a leadership quality that I observed up close and personal many, many times in these NATO meetings.

It hasn't been all that easy the last few years. There has been unrest in the alliance. And PAUL was chairman of the Economics and Security Committee during part of that time, and I was a member and succeeded him as chairman. And it was an easy transition from the standpoint that PAUL had gained so much respect from our European allies and colleagues that it was easy for us to run that committee in a way that I think was constructive.

He was extraordinarily dedicated to his family. He talked about them all the time. And beyond that, he was a man that had a well-grounded sense of himself. He was one who not only cared deeply for his family, his State and his country, but was willing to go out of his way and inconvenience himself time and time again to go the extra mile to try to make things better. I feel very privileged to just have known him and to be a friend of his, and more importantly, him being a friend of mine.

I'm going to miss him a lot. I know this House will miss him a lot. The country will miss him a lot. He is currently serving as North American Vice President of NATO PA, and I'm sure that that organization will miss him as well.

Thank you for allowing me this time. Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the dean of our delegation for authoring this resolution. I also want to thank our Democratic friends from Ohio and Members from other States who I see gathering on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way to describe today's news about our friend, PAUL GILLMOR, other than shock, a devastating loss to his family, to his friends, his colleagues, Ohio and our Nation.

Unlike a number of the other members of the Ohio delegation, I didn't come to Congress through the Ohio legislature, and so I didn't serve with PAUL in the Ohio legislature, although I knew of him from Republican gatherings around the State of Ohio, he also was my mom's Congressman. She always told me the story about how excited the people were who were up in Lakeside, Marblehead and the Islands that Congressman GILLMOR was going to come up and share his thoughts. But I didn't have the chance to work with him until I arrived here about 13 years ago. What I found was what I had heard, and that was that Congressman GILLMOR was a hardworking, smart legislator who loved his family, loved his friends, loved this institution and the people he served. He was willing to take the time to show a young freshman around back in 1995. He was willing to share his vast knowledge of financial services with those that didn't quite have the same expertise. If you were having a sadness or a joy in your life, he was willing to share in that. And he was a wonderful fellow to sit and have dinner with. And after dinner, he was a wonderful fellow to sit around with and tell war stories. And over the course of the years, many of those stories were exaggerated with the passage of time and also the failing of memory, but it was always a good time.

I was reminded by my staff, because I want to talk about PAUL's family, but I also want to talk about PAUL's other family. And my staff reminded me, when they learned of PAUL's passing today, that we were neighbors in the Longworth Building, and my staff told me how lucky we were to have a neighbor whose staff was always willing to walk us through another clueless day in the 104th Congress. And how you could always walk into the lobby, and how he taught us about constituent services because you would always find a bowl of Dum Dum suckers because the Spangler Candy Company was located in Bryan, Ohio, which was in the Congressman's district.

Our Ohio delegation is poor today with the loss of our friend, neighbor and mentor, PAUL GILLMOR. Our thoughts and prayers are with PAUL's wife, Karen, his five wonderful children, and also, Mr. Speaker, with his Capitol Hill family, many of whom have been with him for many, many years and who miss him very badly today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. SUTTON, will control the remainder of the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR's time.

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened today to hear of the passing of Congressman PAUL GILLMOR.

As a freshman Member of this body, I haven't known Mr. GILLMOR as long as some of my colleagues who have already spoken and who will, I'm sure, rise to speak in moments following my remarks.

I did have occasion enough to spend time with Mr. GILLMOR to know what a friendly and unpretentious and likeable man he was. And my thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Karen, and his family and his friends. I did have the opportunity to serve with Karen in the State legislature in Ohio. And Karen, as I said, you're in our thoughts and prayers.

The State of Ohio and the United States Congress have lost a great friend. PAUL GILLMOR devoted his life to serving his community, his State and his Nation. From his service in the United States Air Force to his tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Ohio in Congress, PAUL GILLMOR always fought hard to make a difference in people's lives. We will all miss him greatly. And I am grateful for the opportunity to have known him even for the short time that I did.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), chairman of the committee on which PAUL served.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Well, the former chairman, the ranking member now

When I think of PAUL GILLMOR, I think of two words, "team player." Earlier this year, when the Republicans lost the majority, we had to downsize the number of Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I made a decision, as the ranking member, to try not to have to kick anybody off the committee and not bump off our junior members. So I went to the senior members of the committee and asked if there were any volunteers who might want to take a leave of absence to allow the junior members not to have to be bumped off, and of course PAUL GILLMOR was one of the ones who volunteered to take a leave of absence so he could serve on the Financial Services Committee and keep his seniority on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

□ 1545

Because of that, several of our junior members were able to stay on the committee.

Well, about a month ago, we had a contentious mark-up coming up. Sure enough, one of the junior members had a personal family situation that they couldn't get out of. They were going to have to take a leave of absence. We needed every vote. So I went to PAUL, and I said, "Would you be willing to come back on the committee for 1 or 2 days?" He kind of grumped a little bit about it, but he said, "If you need me, I'll be there." Not only did he come back on the committee, but he offered amendments and was there all of the time and didn't complain, whine, moan or groan about how tough it was. He was a team player. He did a good job.

When we were in the majority, PAUL was the chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, which is not one of the more glamorous subcommittees of this Congress. It deals with such things as the Superfund and the Clean Water Act and all these international treaties. It's a tough job. PAUL did it not only with good grace, but he did it in an excellent fashion.

PAUL GILLMOR is going to be missed as a friend. He is going to be missed as a Congressman. He is going to be missed as a statesman for this country. My sympathy goes out to his wife, Karen, and his family. We will definitely miss the services of the Honorable PAUL GILLMOR in the House of Representatives.

God bless him, and God bless his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON) will control the remainder of the time of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON).

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today saddened by the death of PAUL GILLMOR. PAUL and I took much the same track to come here to Congress in that PAUL served diligently for the State of Ohio in the Ohio senate. As a

matter of fact, he and his wife, Karen, both left quite a legacy there and then moved on to Congress. I knew PAUL, but through other people, so to speak, until I came to Congress. I can still remember how welcoming he was to me as another Ohio delegate and welcoming me to be here in Congress. I was very comfortable when he, DEBORAH PRYCE and I were the Congress people hosting a banking financial seminar in Columbus not too many months ago, 4, 5 or 6 months ago. It was good to sit with PAUL. We sort of chatted in between the time.

One of the things that comes to mind about PAUL is that he was my sister, Becky's, Congressman. She lives in Henry County in part of his district. She is a yellow dog Democrat, but she loved PAUL GILLMOR. Just as recently as last night, before we knew any of this had happened, we talked about him at dinner. She said, "Paul Gillmor always listens to us." So she felt very proud of her relationship with her Congressman.

I think many people have felt that way about PAUL. When this type of thing happens, it shows you the compassion and the feeling among us, as one body, as one set of people representing America. I think that is what makes our country different from others. PAUL GILLMOR was certainly a perfect example of that. So my heart and my sympathy go out to his wife, Karen, and his five children. Hopefully, they will be able to continue the legacy he has set for the Gillmor family.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we all rise in shock and great sadness to mourn the death of friend and colleague, PAUL GILLMOR. There is really so much to honor about his life. He was actually a legislator's legislator. Before he came to Capitol Hill, he spent 22 years in the Ohio statehouse where he became the senate president for three terms. He was there during those formative years of his professional life so long, and to the extent of which he became a real pro at it, that he had an innate sense of the legislative process. He got to know the people, because half of this work is getting to know the people.

He seemed to come by it naturally. We would sit at whip meetings when he came to Congress. He would ask all the right questions and get to the bottom line in half the time as anyone else. PAUL GILLMOR really knew what he was doing, and he always made it look so effortless.

He cared about other people. He cared about his staff. He cared about his colleagues. He cared about his friends. I didn't know a single soul that didn't like PAUL GILLMOR. And that is saying a lot in this business. PAUL was a people person. He was a person that

others gravitated to because he cared about them.

But he cared about no one more in life than his family. As a Member who on occasion myself has missed a vote on the naming of a post office or two, I really respect the priorities that PAUL GILLMOR had about putting his family first. That's the right thing to do and that's the way PAUL did it.

He has a lot for which Karen, his dear wife, and his family can be proud to look back upon as they examine the legacy that he left to Ohio, to them, and to our country.

Once again, we have much to honor in PAUL GILLMOR's life. Our prayers are with his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) will control the remainder of the time of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON).

There was no objection.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would yield time to Mr. OBEY, the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, such time as he may consume.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

I simply cannot believe that PAUL is gone. I first got to know him when we both served on a task force to rewrite the code of ethics in the nineties. That was not an easy job. PAUL's performance was solid. It was thoughtful. In all the time that we discussed those issues before we brought our recommendations to the floor, I never saw him for one moment raise a partisan angle on any ethics question, and I never saw him question anyone else's motives.

What I did see was a man who understood that ethics is important, and yet because it involves the rules of the House, it can also be exceedingly complicated.

I never saw PAUL take a single cheap shot in all the time that he served on that committee. That is one of the reasons that he became one of my favorite Republicans in this place, because there are very few people on either side of the aisle who aren't willing to take a cheap shot at the other side, even if it results in damage to the institution. That's where PAUL drew the line.

He didn't mind seeking partisan advantage. That's what all of us try to do from time to time. But what he always tried to do, in my judgment, was to seek whatever advantage he saw without taking advantage of the institution at the same time. That's an important line to draw in an institution like this.

I think we can all be grateful for the job that PAUL did for as long as God allowed him to do it. I simply cannot believe he is gone.

I extend my sincere regrets and best wishes to his family and all the members of the Ohio delegation.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

Mr. TIBERI. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, my heart goes out to PAUL's wife, Karen, and his five children. As Mr. OBEY said, I can't believe it, either. I first met PAUL GILLMOR when he was president of the Ohio senate and served in the senate. He had a very distinguished career before having ever come to the United States Congress, a career that many would admire, just there in our statehouse in Ohio.

His reputation was as a man of great humility. Something that we all could learn a lesson from is PAUL GILLMOR'S humility, the gentleness of PAUL GILLMOR, the way he loved to serve the public of Ohio and northwest Ohio and the constituents he was so proud to serve.

PAUL was an Air Force veteran. Many didn't know that. He was a proud graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in my district, and, for an Ohioan, a proud graduate of the University of Michigan's law school.

PAUL was known around the statehouse as a very gentle person, as a man who rose to the top of the political game, but never forgot where he came from, a successful politician, a successful public servant, a successful businessman.

Yesterday I had the opportunity with a couple of other Members, Congressman JORDAN and Congressman HOBSON, to sit in the airport in Columbus in the afternoon to chat with PAUL as we were coming back to Washington, DC.

I had the added opportunity to spend some time with him on the airplane sitting next to him. I will remember PAUL in the way that I have always known PAUL, a very happy warrior, a man who loved what he did on a daily basis. He enjoyed August, reaching out to community after community in northwest Ohio at town hall meeting after town hall meeting, up at the lake with friends and family. He enjoyed August. He had a smile on his face. He enjoyed public service. He enjoyed representing the people of northwest Ohio.

That's how I will remember PAUL GILLMOR. We lost a good friend. Ohio lost a native son. And America lost a patriot.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my first comments are to Karen Gillmor. Karen, I stand in your stead. Only 4 years ago, I lost my husband suddenly. All I can say to you is hold on to God's unchanging hand. He will help you through all of this. And as you think about all the wonderful memories and the wonderful opportunities and the blessing that you had to have PAUL GILLMOR in your life. To your sons and daughters, I say the same thing. I always talk to my son, and I say, "Merv, just remember all the good times. Remember all the fun you had, all the things you learned, and cherish each and every one of them."

As a Member of Congress, I rise to speak to honor the life of my colleague and friend, PAUL GILLMOR. PAUL and I served on the Committee on Financial Services together. When I first came to Congress, PAUL reminded me of the big

bear, kind of a gentle bear. You don't even know he is really in the room until he kind of humbles into the room. I remember him saying on occasion, Stephanie, Congresswoman JONES, so forth and so on.

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to cosponsor some legislation with him with regard to historic preservation. He and I both understood the importance of preserving historic buildings in this Nation and offered legislation that would have provided tax incentives for people to be able to shore up that legislation.

Unlike Paul, I was not in the legislature when I first came to Congress. The advantage of having a colleague and a friend who has had some experience in the legislature works greatly. I can remember one time at a Financial Services hearing, as usual, I was going at a witness. Later Paul said, "Now, Stephanie, just calm down a little bit. It ain't like you're in a courtroom anymore."

We're all going to miss PAUL GILLMOR. The beauty of the United States Congress is that it is a bipartisan body where you have Democrats and Republicans who are there and who are able to argue or debate their particular issue. But the beauty also of a bipartisan body is that you have Democrats and Republicans who can get along, who understand the importance of raising the issues on behalf of their constituents, but also understand the importance of working together.

□ 1600

I know everyone has already placed into the RECORD all of PAUL's background, experience and things that he did to represent the great State of Ohio. Again, I stand here as a colleague and a friend to talk about my experiences with PAUL GILLMOR, to record them in my memory, and to smile, because at these times it is often hard to smile and lift up a time of laughter. But I call upon all of our friends and colleagues and his family to look to the good times, to look to all the great memories, and, over time, time will heal some of the wounds.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the leader, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the dean of our delegation for bringing this resolution to the floor, and thank my colleague from Cleveland, Mrs. Jones, for her enlightening remarks and lightening this up.

I was here earlier to announce PAUL's passing to the House. I can remember the first time I met PAUL GILLMOR. I was a brand new State legislator. It was 1985, and it wasn't at the statehouse; it was down the street at the Pewter Mug.

Now, for those of us who served in the statehouse, we have all been to the Pewter Mug. That is where I got to know PAUL GILLMOR. He was the senate president; I was a lowly new house member, and Helen used to come over and wait on us. For those who came to the statehouse who went to the Pewter Mug, you would remember Helen, because you could never forget her, and she would never forget PAUL.

But I got to know PAUL GILLMOR. In 1986, PAUL decided to run for Governor in a Republican primary, and I was on his team. As a matter of fact, it might have been one of the first political checks I actually wrote was to PAUL GILLMOR when he ran for Governor. Unfortunately, he didn't win that primary election, but I really got to know PAUL GILMOR.

He really was a public servant who enjoyed what he did, who enjoyed representing people, and someone that came to Congress right before I did. He came in 1988; I came in 1990. We have been close friends over the 17 years that we have worked here together. We worked on a number of issues.

PAUL loved to understand what was happening around the world, and he certainly did his share of traveling to try to understand what was happening. But his work on the Energy and Commerce Committee, his work over in the Financial Services Committee will speak for itself.

But earlier this year, I think it was mentioned by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Barton, earlier this year we lost our majority, we lost a number of seats, and Paul Gillmor took the magnanimous step of relinquishing his seat on the Energy and Commerce Committee to take a seat on the Financial Services Committee to help make room for other Members. It was that kind of kindness and consideration that I think all of us will remember about Paul Gillmor.

Karen and the children, our prayers are with you. PAUL was a great servant, a great friend, and someone who we will all miss.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio, TIM RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, and I also thank our friend, the dean of the delegation, Mr. REGULA.

I would just add for a minute my thoughts and memories of Mr. GILLMOR. I graduated from Bowling Green State University, so I knew of Mr. GILLMOR before I even got into politics, because as many of the Members from Ohio know, he is a legend in northwest Ohio, especially in Bowling Green and especially with the Bowling Green Young Republicans. He was very familiar.

I remember, as we all do, taking the little trolley back and forth from the office buildings over here, and for some reason our conversations always ended up talking about Ohio State football. Mr. GILLMOR loved the Buckeyes. He loved going to the Ohio State football games. I remember being in the State senate seeing him at the Ohio State football games. That is just the kind of guy he was. He loved football, he loved his country, he loved his constituents,

he loved this institution, and he certainly will be missed.

So from the citizens of the 17th District, we just want to thank Mr. GILLMOR for his service and send our condolences and our prayers to his family and his children and his wife, Karen. And also to say, as Mr. BOEHNER, the minority leader said, he was a gentleman. He was a gentle man. In the midst of all the chaos of Washington, DC, his silence and his gentleness were very refreshing, and he will be missed.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio.

We have heard words about PAUL GILLMOR, our friend, and one word we keep hearing over and over is "caring." He really cared. He cared about his family. You would go in his office and you would see the pictures of his family.

He cared about his staff. Mark Wellman, his chief of staff; Dave Oxner, great guys. They were sort of a reflection and extension of PAUL. They were gentlemen. They really did not care about who got the credit. They were hard workers. I say to Mark and Dave, I know that you are grieving right now.

Mr. OBEY mentioned that he cared about this institution. He truly did. He cared about every Member. I never heard him insult another Member. I never heard him say something unkind.

He talked about issues. He felt strongly about issues. The brownfields legislation was a great example of how he was very tenacious, had very strong feelings. He did that earlier this year on the industrial loan companies when, as a small town banker, mainstream banker, he felt very strongly that small town banks were being disadvantaged. But he never said anything unkind about those who opposed his position.

To his credit, I think part of that kindness, that caring, and also his capable leadership, that legislation passed the House 371-16. I think brownfields will be part of his legacy, particularly to the industrial States, the people of Ohio that he loved; as will the industrial loan company legislation, that really will help preserve small town mainstream banking.

He was a banker. I had the privilege of appointing PAUL as the ranking member of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee. I never regretted that decision. I knew that what PAUL cared about was not himself or not the glory, but doing what was right for the American people. He never disappointed me. I will miss him deeply.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Burgess).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for convening this resolution this evening and I thank the Ohio delegation for allowing me to be part of this remembrance of the life of our friend PAUL GILLMOR. Like everyone else, I was shocked and saddened this morning to hear the news about the loss of our friend.

We have heard several people talk about Mr. GILLMOR and his work on the committee. I remember last year in the 109th Congress when he was the subcommittee chairman and the work he did on persistent organic pollutants. It really was not something I had ever thought about before I came to Congress, it really wasn't something I ever campaigned on, but PAUL had a way of explaining it and making it understandable and worked through a very complex issue working with both sides of the committee dais to get meaningful legislation passed.

Then at the end of the 109th Congress, after the election, coming back for the 110th Congress, and someone explained to me the arithmetic that happens when you lose the majority, and counting on my fingers the number of seats we had lost on the Energy and Commerce Committee and I was no longer going to be on that committee, and then later PAUL came to me and said, "Doc, you are too important on that committee, so I am going to stay on Financial Services and I will take a leave from Energy and Commerce."

You heard Ranking Member BARTON mention it. You heard Leader BOEHNER mention it. I was the guy that he let stay on the committee by his selfless act of taking a leave of absence from a committee that he loved, committee work he loved to do. I thank him so much for giving me the opportunity to stay on the committee.

Of course, we welcomed him back a few weeks ago when we needed that extra vote when we were discussing energy legislation. And, sure enough, PAUL was there not just to be a vote, but he brought amendments with him. He tied things up. He behaved just like the PAUL GILLMOR that I had remembered on the committee from the year before.

So, to his family, I wanted you to know, you had heard me mention before how selfless PAUL was about giving up a place on the committee. I am the guy that he let stay on the committee. I will never forget that, and I will always try to live up to his expectations.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to our colleague from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of our delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues from Ohio in expressing great shock and sadness at the passing of our friend and neighbor Congressman PAUL GILLMOR.

As previous speakers have mentioned, Congressman GILLMOR was in our district last week with the flooding. I had the opportunity to just visit with him yesterday, as Congressman

TIBERI mentioned as well, at the airport before we flew down here. You just can't believe this has happened.

PAUL was a husband and a father. He was a proud Republican, an Air Force veteran, as others mentioned, with Vietnam era service, and a long time congressional leader on international leaders.

Prior to his distinguished service in Congress, he made his mark in the Ohio legislature with an impressive 22-year career in the Ohio Senate, and as Congresswoman PRYCE mentioned, three terms as senate president.

I had the unique opportunity to work with PAUL on issues that affected our part of Ohio. I counted on him as a staunch ally in promoting the workers and the mission at Lima's Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, our tank plant in Lima, Ohio.

We also shared in challenging times, including the tragic Bluffton University bus crash earlier this year, and more recently, as I mentioned, the flooding that took place and devastated many areas of both of our districts

I served with PAUL's wife, Karen, in the general assembly, although she was on the senate side and I was on the house side, and got to know their family a little bit over the years. Our family's prayers are with her and the entire Gillmor family as they attempt to find peace in the midst of this tragedy.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in remembering one of our own, PAUL GILLMOR. It is moments like this that you realize the fleeting nature of time. Indeed, we truly realize the shortness of time and the greatness of eternity. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his friends and all of the people that he touched during the time he was on this Earth.

Representative GILLMOR was a friend. He was a gentleman who I had the pleasure of getting to know as a neighbor. Because we lived across the street from each other at one time, there were several occasions that we shared a ride home after a long night of votes. During those times, I was able to gain a small measure of the man and discovered him to be generous, kind, and, above all, considerate.

The people of Ohio were privileged to have known him as a public servant. The Members of Congress were honored to share him as a colleague. His friends were rewarded with his company, and his family was embraced by his love.

We will miss PAUL and remember our time with him and honor his memory. May God give Karen and his children an extra measure of grace during this most difficult time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio. Mrs. Schmidt.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened today by the news of

the loss of my dear friend PAUL GILLMOR. PG, as many of us called him, was a shining example of service and leadership. As president of the Ohio senate, he led Ohio through good times and bad times with such grace.

For the last two decades, he fought for all Ohioans here in Congress, not just those in his own district. During his entire life, PAUL GILLMOR was a true leader, a gentleman and a statesman. Most importantly, he was a nice guy, a true friend to all.

When I was first elected, he became a mentor to me. I would always welcome his kind words on the House floor, "How is it going, kid?"

Just as important, he was a great father and a loving husband.

□ 1615

My prayers go out to his wonderful wife Karen and all of his children. Ohio has suffered a great loss. America has suffered a great loss. We here in this House have lost a dear friend. May God be with you, PAUL. Godspeed.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Turner).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the dean of our delegation, RALPH REGULA, for bringing this resolution forward to honor the life of PAUL GILLMOR. We are all deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend, PAUL GILLMOR.

I want to tell you one story from when I first got to Congress. Mr. GILLMOR, as I referred to him, as many have said, had a gentle spirit and an informal way and a very accepting way. When I referred to him as "Mr. Gillmor," he corrected me and said, You're to call me PAUL. You will hear, as almost everyone comes forward today and eulogizes him, as they honor him, they refer to him as he had us refer to him, and that is PAUL.

One time we were having dinner and he was talking about some of his accomplishments. Brownfields is an area that is very important to me. When you look across Ohio and see the number of abandoned factory sites and the potential that they represent, PAUL told about his work on the Brownfields Remediation Act that changed the laws that made it easier for those sites to be remediated, and provided tax benefits so that capital would be brought to them.

As you go throughout Ohio today and see abandoned factory sites where buildings are being demolished and new buildings and businesses are being built, it is to PAUL's credit and one of the things he was most proud of, that he was able to work to change the laws to help make it easier for their sites to be developed.

He talked about the number of jobs that it brought, not just in construction but the jobs that it brought to communities, recognizing the impact on families.

Most recently, Ohio has been plagued by scandals arising from predatory lending, and PAUL was a leader in trying to help families and communities that had been subject to predatory lending, pulling together the Ohio delegation to talk about ways we can impact our neighborhoods and support laws that could impact families that had been subject to predatory lending.

PAUL will be remembered as an effective legislator, and as someone who cared deeply for Ohio and for this institution and for his country, and had an impact on the lives of Ohioans.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentle-woman for yielding on this very sad occasion. I am sad to join my colleagues as we face the very sad news regarding the loss of our colleague, PAUL GILLMOR.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Members of Congress, I rise to pay tribute to PAUL GILLMOR, who passed away suddenly today. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Karen, to his two daughters, Linda and Julie, and his three sons, Paul Michael, Connor, and Adam. How proud he was of his children. That was one thing that we used to chat about quite regularly. I would hear about the progress of the twins and how everybody was doing.

Congressman PAUL GILLMOR was an experienced and talented legislator who spent much of his life serving his country. His service began in the Air Force where he rose to the rank of captain as an Air Force Judge Advocate. As a true Ohioan, Congressman GILLMOR then served his State in public office for more than four decades, first in the Ohio State senate where he was elected President of that body, and later here in the House where he also served ably and was held in highest esteem by his colleagues.

More interested in policy than in seeking the limelight, PAUL GILLMOR focused his time here in the House squarely on the needs of his constituents. On the Energy and Commerce Committee, he was deeply involved in consumer issues, including protecting consumers from unfair credit report practices. He also worked to preserve our history by supporting and improving sites honoring our Nation's Presidents. As vice president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Congressman GILLMOR was the highest ranking American in this highly esteemed international organization of parliamentary members from the 26 NATO states.

Congressman GILLMOR's passing is a loss for this House and for our Nation. It is, of course, a greater loss for his family. I hope it is a comfort to them, to PAUL's family and friends, that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for us because we also learned of the sudden passing of our former colleague, Jennifer Dunn. She was a distinguished former Member of Congress from the State of Washington and I know we will acknowledge her service and leadership in the Congress on another occasion. But getting hit from all sides on this in one day is a great loss for the Congress.

As I yield back to the distinguished gentlewoman, I also want to thank her for bringing to the attention of so many Members of Congress the passing of Congressman Vanik who served so ably in this body who passed away last week. Anyone who knows about international human rights knows that Congressman Vanik as part of the Jackson-Vanik amendment did so much to free people in the Soviet Union. He made a very big difference for Soviet Jewry.

Ohio has been generous to the country. We mourn the loss of PAUL GILLMOR and Jennifer Dunn and Charles Vanik, who lived until his 90s, so God blessed him with that long life.

God did not give PAUL GILLMOR a long life, but he gave him a life of great quality with a beautiful family and the opportunity to serve a State he loved and a country that he was very patriotic about.

On behalf of all of our colleagues, I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Chabot).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I stand with my colleagues today to honor the memory of PAUL GILLMOR. He was really a great guy. He actually ran the first time in 1988 for this esteemed institution, for the Congress, the same year I first ran. He won and I didn't. But in 1994 I did get to join him here.

He was one of the guys that, as other Members have said, he was just an all around good guy. He really was. You liked to talk to him. For some reason, he used to call me Mr. Steve; I don't know why he did that. So I started calling him Mr. Paul, and that is the way we referred to each other.

Yesterday evening after we had our votes, we had all come back into town from the August recess and we were asking each other what did you do over the break, what happened. He was telling me how he had stayed pretty close to home. He had worked with his constituents, been with his family for some time, and he wanted to know what I had done. I said I had done some of those same things, and that I had also had an opportunity to go to Darfur where there is probably one of the greatest human tragedies that we have seen on Earth in a number of years, and he was very interested and wanted to know what we can do to help the people in Darfur. So we spent a period of time discussing that right outside those doors just last evening. I was just shocked when I learned that PAUL had passed away suddenly so recently.

He was somebody that really I think made a difference in this institution.

As has been mentioned, he loved his Buckeyes. He would talk about what they had done and how the game had been played and how he couldn't wait to go to the next game. And he loved our State of Ohio. He loved the people that he represented. And most especially, he loved his family.

We are all going to miss PAUL GILLMOR, and we wish the best to his wife, Karen, and his five children. God

bless you, PAUL.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I rise to express my deep sadness to learn of the passing of one of my good friends and colleagues, PAUL GILLMOR.

PAUL was the ranking member of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee that I chair, and I had the great privilege of working with him on so many important issues throughout the years. In fact, this morning at the hearing we were holding on the subprime mortgage crisis, I had reserved 4 minutes for PAUL to speak and he didn't come to the meeting. He was always punctual, and so we sent a staff member out to find him and found out the very, very sad news.

PAUL was a distinguished Representative representing Ohio for many years. He held some partisan positions as the minority deputy whip; but on Financial Services, he was always ready to reach across the aisle and to work in a bipartisan way for the safety and soundness of our financial institutions and protections of consumer concerns.

He had a great deal of experience in banking, and in fact had run banks back in his home State of Ohio, so he brought the practical common sense of having known the business firsthand, and he always had valuable insights.

Just before we broke for our August work period, we had introduced a bill together on file freeze and negotiated various aspects that he thought was important for the bill. He was an outstanding person.

He served in Vietnam and he was a distinguished veteran. He served in the Air Force and achieved the status of captain. My brother served in Vietnam, and we shared conversations about that experience.

He was an extremely outstanding leader in his home State of Ohio, and actually served in the State senate and headed the State senate for five terms before becoming elected to Congress.

My heart goes out to his wife and children. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that PAUL'S presence in this Chamber will be deeply, deeply missed. He was an outstanding patriot and outstanding Congressman and an outstanding spouse, husband and father. We are all deeply, deeply saddened.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is obviously with great sadness that we all honor the service of our colleague and friend, PAUL GILLMOR.

Paul and I came to Congress the same year. We were in the 101st Congress and we were both veterans of the United States Air Force. He obviously expressed a great love for this Nation, for this institution, and I believe sincerely he brought credit upon all of us.

This dedication was matched by his love for his family, his wife, Karen, his two daughters, Linda and Julie, and his three sons, Paul Michael, Connor and Adam. I express my deepest condolences to the family.

I had the opportunity when I first met PAUL to talk informally with him about his background. He said he was a leader of the senate. Coming from the private sector and not understanding the full significance of what that meant, I became acutely aware of what it meant when I heard him in informal sessions or in meetings where he had a presence about him, an aplomb, and also a sincerity, in which he would express his ideas in a way that would get to the meat of the issue and cut to the chase. And I realized during this, he could do it tactfully. He was not a partisan individual. He was bipartisan, in fact. I can't recollect on the floor him having a really partisan speech because I think it goes to when he was a leader of the senate, he understood to get things done, he had to develop consensus. So when he went to a meeting, he listened more than he talked and he also stepped forward with the idea of what we should do in a very nice way such that most people would say, Wow, at the end of the meeting, PAUL GILLMOR made the most sense.

Another vignette is when he was in the Speaker's chair. I watched when there would be a huge din on the floor, and somehow his voice rose to such a crescendo and also a pitch that he could pierce this noise and bring order and stability to the House here. I used to watch him also with great admiration on how he did this. It was a tribute to his leadership and also his background as leader of the senate.

So I come to the House floor to say his dedication and expertise will be greatly missed. He has had 40 years of public service. He established a long record of working for average Americans. God bless the Gillmor family, and God bless PAUL GILLMOR.

□ 1630

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has 2 minutes.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that both sides have 5 additional minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE).

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague for yielding the time.

I'm a first-year lawmaker here in Washington and came in with this new majority in a very partisan time in American political history, a time where too often we're preoccupied with political bickering, a time when we needed more people like PAUL GILLMOR on this floor.

Paul befriended me. We, by chance, both flew out of the Columbus Airport to and from Washington, so we had a chance to sit and talk about non-legislative matters, about our families, about some of the nonpolitical aspects of this job. And Paul was one to give advice, despite the fact that we're on the opposite sides of the aisle. He provided me, as a good man would, with the wisdom he's obtained, and as a freshman, I was very grateful to him for his help.

I didn't know PAUL before being elected to the House last November, but we share many mutual friends. Harry Mishel is a dear friend of mine, a former president of the Ohio senate, was a good friend of PAUL's and spoke very highly of PAUL. And I think it's a testament to the kind of person he is that he would engender that kind of friendship and support, regardless of where one stands on the political aisle.

One other small anecdote that I think sums PAUL up. A very good friend of mine worked in the Ohio caucus 20 years ago when PAUL was with the Ohio senate, and recently, this friend returned to Columbus and ran into PAUL who was there while on break here. And after 20 years, PAUL still remembered this man, not just his last name, but his first name, and greeted him as a friend after 20 years.

That's the kind of man PAUL GILLMOR was. That's the kind of man I will remember, and my deepest and heartfelt condolences from not just me but the many good folks of Ohio's 18th District go out to PAUL and his family. He and they are in our prayers.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

This is truly a day of great sadness for our conference, for this House, for the State of Ohio and, yes, Mr. Speaker, for our Nation.

Though only in my second term in Congress, I came to know and appreciate PAUL GILLMOR, serving on one of his committees, Financial Services, and I came to appreciate him for many different and wonderful attributes. He had a warm and gentle temperament, a calm and friendly demeanor, a measured and thoughtful reason, a respected and a respectful legislator. These and so many other attributes shall be missed by one and all.

I join my colleagues in extending our thoughts and our prayers to his constituents, to his friends, and most, to his family. We are truly a better Nation because of the service of PAUL GILLMOR.

May God rest his soul.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the minority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding and for managing this recognition of our colleague PAUL GILLMOR.

Like so many people in this room, I've had lots of experiences with PAUL, and they were all good, whether they were watching him represent our country in diplomatic situations in his role leading our NATO parliamentary effort, one of the leaders in that effort, or whether it was every Thursday when we had the deputy whip meeting and talked about where we ought to be going as a conference, where we ought to be going as a country.

I remember PAUL said to me one time, he said, you know, that's my favorite meeting of the week because that's where we talk about the future, and PAUL GILLMOR was a future-oriented guy who loved his family, who loved his country, who loved the concept of public service. And he performed that public service well, whether it was years in the Ohio State senate or two decades in the U.S. Congress.

We will truly miss him. We are surprised at his leaving us way too early. His contributions would have continued to be great here, and the country will suffer from the loss that we feel today.

I also want to reach out to his family. And as I said, PAUL loved his country, but he also loved his family. And you didn't have to spend much time with him to find out that deep love he had for his sons, for his daughters, for his wife and for his extended family. And I appreciate him so much, and I'm going to join his family and his friends in missing him. His place here will be hard to fill, and his contributions have been great.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that both sides have an additional 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Hobson), a good friend of PAUL, a good friend of our Ohio delegation.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember our good friend PAUL GILLMOR. Just yesterday, the three of us rode together in from Columbus

I saw him in the airport, and I said, Hi, GILLMO. He said, Hi, Honorable DAVE, and we started to talk, as we did often, because we've known each other a long time.

And I said, What'd you do, and he told me about going to the floods. And

then we got into boats and he told us about his boat and the times he was having on the lake with his children and Karen, and he was happy.

Then we started to talk business, because PAUL wasn't just a legislator. He was a businessman, too, and he was starting a bank in Florida. He says, You want to invest? I said, Well, we've been talking about that. So we talked about that for a while, and he was happy, and we were all happy. We were colleagues, friends.

I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for Paul Gillmor. When Paul Gillmor was president of the senate, I lost an election and got appointed to the State senate that Paul Gillmor was president then for a few more weeks before we went in the minority, and he helped pick me. He picked me, and the newspaper read "Loser Wins." But Paul Gillmor set me on the way.

I've never lost another election, thanks to PAUL GILLMOR. PAUL GILLMOR was always there, and I think his staff knows that.

I met a young man then in the State senate named Mark Wellman who was working for PAUL then. He works with PAUL to this day. That's the kind of loyalty people had to PAUL GILLMOR.

I know of no politician in Ohio today who doesn't have respect for PAUL GILLMOR and wasn't his friend. He transcended partisanship. He had his way about the things he had to get done, but it never became personal.

When we were in the legislature, both sides had great respect for PAUL GILLMOR, and we used to meet together and talk about things together. PAUL GILLMOR was a unique person in that respect because there's always somebody out there that's got it in for somebody, but they didn't have it in for PAUL GILLMOR because he was what I would call a true gentleman.

We're SAEs and Ralph's an SAE, too, and PAUL went to Ohio Wesleyan, and I went to Ohio Wesleyan. We went there at the same time. But I would meet the same time in the State senate, and they said, Do you know SKIP, SKIP GILLMOR? I said, No, I don't know SKIP GILLMOR. I know Senator GILLMOR, but he was SKIP GILLMOR to all the people at Ohio Wesleyan. And they still do. One of the first calls I got today was from people at Ohio Wesleyan saying what do we do. I said I don't know.

We've lost a good friend. I hope Karen and the children can review the statements that have been made about PAUL today. It's something that is not said about a lot of people. He was a good man, he was a great man, and he was a great father to his children, which is the most important thing, and we're going to miss him.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute. I just want to say, too, that PAUL cared a lot about his staff. He was always a person that cared for others, and particularly his staff, and I want the members of his staff to know that we understand the great loss that they feel.

And I guess particularly when I left the Ohio senate, my staff person was inherited by PAUL, and we used to often talk about Celia Foraker, about Celia did this and Celia did that, because we both shared a great fondness for her. I know that PAUL felt that way about his staff here. It's a great loss to his staff to have a Member that had the caring concern that he did.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the people of Ohio have lost a dedicated public servant and genuine leader today with the passing of Congressman PAUL GILLMOR. As a colleague and friend in the House of Representatives, PAUL was a strong voice for the needs and interests of the people he represented as well as a model of integrity.

In addition to the almost 20 years he served as a Member of Congress and the two decades he spent in the Ohio State Senate, PAUL was also a veteran of the United States Air Force serving on active duty during Vietnam.

As a fellow member of the Republican Whip Team, I enjoyed sitting with PAUL at the weekly meetings where he always was perceptive and provided insight from his decades of legislative service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with PAUL's family during these difficult times.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Congressman PAUL GILLMOR and offer my sincere condolences to his family. My wife and I extend our sympathies to PAUL's wife Karen and their 5 children. I know that no words can provide comfort during this difficult time or shine light on this period of darkness, but please know that PAUL's family remains in my thoughts and prayers.

I had the pleasure to work closely with PAUL as a Member of both the Energy and Commerce Committee and Financial Services Committee for nearly 10 years. I got to see first-hand his passion for public service, his commitment to the people of Ohio and the earnest way in which he approached his job. He truly loved representing his community and making a positive difference in their lives and the lives of all Americans.

The 5th District of Ohio was well served with PAUL GILLMOR in office and he will be remembered dearly for his many years of public service.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests and join with my colleagues issuing condolences to the Gillmor family, and I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on H. Res. 632

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), the whole number of the House is 433.

$\sqcap 1645$

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE HONORABLE JOHN T. DOOLITTLE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH) laid before the House the following communication from Alisha Perkins, Scheduler/Office Manager, Office of the Honorable John T. Doollittle, Member of Congress:

OFFICE OF JOHN T. DOOLITTLE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 4, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consulting with my attorney, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{ALISHA PERKINS,} \\ \textit{Scheduler/Office Manager.} \end{array}$

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS OMAR E. TORRES

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Private First Class Omar E. Torres, a courageous young soldier who died in Iraq on August 22.

Omar Torres grew up on Chicago's southwest side and played football at De La Salle High School. After graduating in 2005, Torres received a full ride scholarship to attend The Ohio State University.

During his freshman year at OSU, Torres followed his strong desire to serve his country and joined the U.S. Army Reserves. This decision led to his activation during his sophomore year, and in May of 2007, Torres was deployed to Iraq as part of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas

Although his mission was hazardous, Private Torres bravely and honorably carried out his duties. Sadly on August 22, PFC Torres was killed by an IED while patrolling Baghdad. He was only 20 years old.

Aside from his military service to our Nation, Omar Torres was interested in politics and had a strong desire to work for positive change in our country. While attending his wake last month, I was moved by the large number of lives PFC Torres had touched.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Private First Class Omar E. Torres. We will never forget his sacrifice and are forever indebted to him, as well as to all our soldiers. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies are with the Torres family and friends in this difficult time.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TIME IS NOW TO PLAN SAFE AND ORDERLY DEPARTURE FROM IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of spin coming from the White House on why America needs to stay the course in Iraq, and why we must keep the surge going on and on and on, on how victory is near if we simply escalate the number of troops we have in this region of Iraq or another region of Iraq.

Enough, Mr. Speaker, enough. It seems the President hasn't read his own National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq. If he had, he would find a grim picture of the political and security reality in Iraq, one quite different from his own.

Let me read just a few conclusions from this August 23 report:

One, the level of overall violence, including attacks on and casualties among civilians, remains high; Iraq's sectarian groups remain unreconciled; al Qaeda in Iraq retains the ability to conduct high-profile attacks; and to date, Iraqi political leaders remain unable to govern effectively.

Two, population displacement resulting from sectarian violence continues, imposing burdens on provincial governments and some neighboring states and increasing the danger of destabilizing influences spreading across Iraq's borders over the next 6 to 12 months.

Three, broadly accepted political compromises required for sustained security, long-term political progress and economic development are unlikely to emerge unless there is a fundamental shift in the factors driving Iraqi political and security developments.

Mr. Speaker, just the first few pages of the NIE on Iraq should concern everyone. Also on the President's reading list should be the August 30 draft GAO report on Iraq, which also paints a very pessimistic picture of Iraq. It concludes that Iraq has failed to meet all but three of the 18 required benchmarks for political and military progress. Rather than embrace these nonpartisan findings, the White House has actually denounced the GAO report for holding Iraq to too high a set of standards.

Mr. Speaker, while the White House speaks of how violence has been reduced in Baghdad, it ignores how the number of Iraqi civilian deaths across the country rose by about 20 percent in July. This is not the time to paint rosy scenarios and declare victory is at hand if only Congress coughs up another \$200 billion to cover the costs of the war over the next few months.

Mr. Speaker, the President and we in Congress must face the facts. We need a plan on how to leave Iraq in a safe and orderly manner in 2008. We need the President to meet with congressional leaders and map out a concrete plan for how to draw down our forces and leave Iraq over the next 9 to 12 months. It can be done, and it must be done.

We can redeploy troops to Kuwait in the surrounding region. We can safe-guard the Kurdish north. We can redeploy troops to Afghanistan. And we can bring troops home to their families, friends and communities. We need the Pentagon to provide a realistic plan for withdrawal, one that is logistically sound and can be achieved over the next year.

President Bush, with great fanfare, recently invoked the Vietnam analogy to support our continued escalation in Iraq. If anything, Vietnam and Iraq prove that wars are a lot easier to get into than out of. If we want to avoid the haste, confusion and humiliation of our final departure from Vietnam, a withdrawal that occurred almost entirely without planning and hurt U.S. military prestige more than any other single action, then we must plan now for our departure from Iraq. If we fail to plan and control the safe and orderly withdrawal of our forces, then we will surely fail our troops once again, holding them hostage to events on the ground beyond their control.

The administration lacked a plan for what to do in Iraq the day after the fall of Saddam Hussein. We must not repeat that mistake when it comes to the welfare and the safety of our troops as they leave Iraq.

For far too long, Congress failed to live up to its responsibilities. We must

not continue to send blank checks to the White House.

Mr. Speaker, this House should not consider the President's supplemental request until we come to an agreement with him on how to bring our troops home in a safe, orderly and timely way.

Let me be clear. This means we should not consider on the floor of this House any additional funding for this war until we have a plan to end it.

As The New York Times stated last Friday, "In Vietnam, like Iraq, American Presidents and military leaders went to great lengths to pretend that victory was at hand when nothing could be further from the truth."

We don't need more spin, Mr. Speaker. What we need is a plan to end the war in Iraq, and we need it now.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO-VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2786, NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAU-THORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. McGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–316) on the resolution (H. Res. 633) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CALDERON'S COLONY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "Wherever there is a Mexican, there is Mexico. Mexico does not end at our borders." To the roar of a standing ovation, the arrogant saber-rattling words are from Mexico's President Calderon in his first state of the union message.

It seems clear to me that these aggressive words are a renewed call by Mexico to colonize the United States. Does El Presidente Calderon claim that the southwest United States is really part of Mexico since many illegals have colonized that area? Sounds like it to me.

Is Leader Calderon calling for a continued stealth invasion into the United States by its citizens? Sounds like it to me.

Does clever calculating Calderon want the United States to become a union with Mexico? Time will tell.

Meanwhile, I wonder if anyone in charge of protecting our homeland is aware of and disturbed by these indignant words. In the history of nations, it appears that when one country invades, colonizes, infiltrates or occupies another without permission, the invaded country either resists invasion at the border or just loses its existence. Time will tell what the United States will do.

And that's just the way it is.

ARMY SPECIALIST KAMISHA BLOCK—DAUGHTER OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, small towns and rural America are historically notable and courageous for sending their young sons and daughters off to fight the wars of America. When volunteers are called for duty, it is these close, small communities that seem to always answer America's call to arms. When one of their number is killed in war, the entire community is emotionally affected.

In southeast Texas, the small town of Vidor has lost one of its daughters of democracy. Army Specialist Kamisha Block was killed in Baghdad August 16, 2007, in the hot war for Iraq.

Kamisha Block became the first female from southeast Texas to die in this war. She enlisted in 2005 at the age of 18 in the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, Kamisha volunteered for the Army when this country was at war, and she probably expected to be sent to the desert of the gun and the valley of the sun. She joined the Army right out of high school. Specialist Block was a military police officer, and eventually wanted to be in law enforcement with a career in the FBI or the CIA.

She was assigned to the 401st Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion and 89th Military Police Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Kamisha and her best friend, Amanda Buck, grew up together. As Amanda says, we rode the school bus together from kindergarten all the way up through high school. Amanda said Kamisha knew where she was headed in life, had a big heart and genuinely wanted to help people.

Specialist Block's death hit her family hard, and the whole community mourns for her. Her loss has not gone unnoticed. Let me explain.

Local newspapers, the Examiner and the Beaumont Enterprise, carried numerous front-page stories about Block and her life. In this small town of Vidor, Texas, almost every business had posted a message for Block and words of support for her family on signs and placards.

When Specialist Block was returned to Texas draped in the cloth of the red, white and blue, the funeral procession traveled through rural areas and small towns. The Patriot Guard led the procession with their 75 motorcycles, many carrying large American flags. Next were the numerous police vehicles from the nearby communities.

As the funeral proceeded, hundreds of teary-eyed people lined the streets of Beaumont, Texas and Vidor, Texas, removing their hats, placing their hands over their hearts, and waving American flags. Cars even pulled off the road and drivers stood out of their vehicles to pay honor and respect to this warrior. People came out of their homes

and stood on their porches in honor of the dead.

According to a local paper, The Examiner, Jamie Reynolds, a friend and coworker of Block's at the Waffle House in Vidor, said, "It was so amazing. I had chills all up and down my arms. It was overwhelming."

Mr. Speaker, showing silent respect and tribute is what people do in southeast Texas when one of their kids is killed in war.

People who knew Block from the Waffle House said that she was always happy with her bright eyes and endearing smile as she served waffles, eggs, and grits and a happy spirit.

While Jerry and Jane Block, the parents of Kamisha, mourn the death and absence of their daughter, America owes them our gratitude and our patriotic appreciation.

Specialist Kamisha Block while serving in Korea and Iraq was awarded several commendations. She was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, Operation Iraqi Freedom Service Ribbon, and the Bronze Star.

Here is a photograph of Kamisha Block, not yet 21 years of age. She died at the age of 20. It has been said "that how we yet live will echo throughout eternity."

Specialist Block showed in a mere 20 years the example of compassion, duty, determination, love of country, and love of God that will echo in her small town of Texas throughout eternity.

Rare breed these women warriors who go to war for the rest of us.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1700

HONORING CORPORAL PHILLIP J. BRODNICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Corporal Phillip J. Brodnick, a courageous young soldier who died in Iraq on August 22, 2007. As we mourn his loss, we use this time to honor his life and express our gratitude for his dedicated service.

Phillip Brodnick was born in Mokena, Illinois, and lived in Burbank until he was 8. He then moved to Frankfurt, Illinois and graduated in 2000 from Lincoln-Way High School. After graduation, Brodnick's desire to serve his country led him to enlist in

the Army, and he soon served a 2-year tour of duty in Kosovo before being discharged in 2002.

However, the country's need and Brodnick's desire to serve led him to re-enlist in the Army in 2005.

In August of 2006, Brodnick was deployed to Iraq as part of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. His excellent service, leadership and ability were soon recognized, leading to a recent promotion to the rank of corporal.

Although initially scheduled to return home in June, Corporal Brodnick dutifully accepted a 4-month tour extension in Iraq. Tragically, on August 22, Corporal Brodnick and 13 other soldiers were killed when the Black Hawk helicopter they were on crashed. He was only 25 years old.

Aside from his military service to our Nation, Corporal Brodnick is remembered as patriotic and as a great friend and also as an animal lover who always looked out for his family. He aspired to one day follow in his father's footsteps and become a police officer.

While attending his wake last week, I was moved by the large number of lives that Corporal Brodnick had touched in his 25 short years. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Corporal Phillip J. Brodnick. We will never forget his sacrifice and are forever indebted to him, as well as all of our soldiers who have died for making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest with sympathies are Corporal Brodnick's family and friends in this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this House will soon be considering a reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. Now, when President Bush signed No Child Left Behind into law 5 years ago, the theory went that schools would raise their standards and strive to make improvements and that this would then eventually trickle down and assist all, even the underperforming students that needed the help the most. Now as we now reconsider this reauthorization of this bill, I submit that many of these changes brought on by this bill have had tremendous burdensome unintended con-

See, instead of giving local school districts the flexibility to develop their own curriculum, they are instead hampered by the NCLB's testing requirements and must tailor their classes now around these tests. Instead of schools setting their standards high in an aggressive drive towards excellence, we have seen just the opposite. In order to maintain their Federal funding, the States are now setting their standards low. In essence, it's a race to the bottom, if you will, as far as standards in this country. And instead of allowing our educators to focus on education, NCLB has instituted some absurd regulatory burdens on the States.

According to the GAO, 41 percent of the financial support and staffing of State education agencies was a product of Federal dollars and regulations. In other words, this means that the Federal Government was the cause of 41 percent of the administrative burden at the State level, despite the fact that the Federal Government only sends 7 percent of overall education funding in this country.

Also, according to the GAO, the testing requirements of NCLB alone will cost States around \$1.9 billion between 2002 and 2008 and spend up towards 6.6 million hours to administer all the paperwork that comes with it as well.

Now, I recently held a town hall meeting on NCLB. Every person that came to that meeting, showed up, had something negative to say about the administrative burdens in NCLB. At one point during the meeting I asked how many people had contact and met with either their local principal or their local school board about some of these problems. Just about every hand in the room went up.

So then I said, Well, how many people here in the room went and talked to somebody down at the New Jersey capital, the New Jersey Department of Education? About half the people raised their hand.

I said finally, Well, how many people went to Washington and took the time out to go and visit somebody with the U.S. Department of Education? Only one person raised their hand.

You see, my point in this is, by instituting these requirements for NCLB in Washington, we are moving accountability for education farther and farther away from where it belongs: parents, students, educators at the local level.

In addition to this, the regulations NCLB places on schools often attempts to fix problems that really don't exist.

One of the schools in my district consistently was cited in publications as one of the top performing schools in the State, but it was placed, because of NCLB, on its watch list 2 years after NCLB was instituted. Now, notice, this was not an underperforming school. Every year nearly 100 percent of the kids graduated. Most went on to college. The average combined scores of SATs was 1100; 14 AP programs were offered at the school. This was a great

school. But instead, NCLB found it underperforming. And because of this, now the teachers and administrators at this school have to turn their attention away from what they were doing, which was running an excellent school and now focus on the paperwork and the burdensome accountability requirements of NCLB. So less good education is coming about because of this.

Now, let me be clear. I share, along with all my colleagues from both sides of aisle in Congress here, the ultimate goal of providing a high quality education for every child in America. This year I introduced legislation that would allow a State then to opt out of the majority of the requirements of NCLB, but, at the same time, would allow that State to keep their education funding through a refundable tax credit.

My bill is H.R. 3177. I call it the LEARN Act. That stands for Local Education Authority Return Now. It gives the States the ability to opt out of NCLB and provides residents of those States a State tax credit equal to the amount of money that otherwise would have gone to Washington and then come back to their State for Federal funding. What it does is give control back to the States, allow them, the States, the parents, the school boards, the option to pursue local and State educational initiatives based on what they know is best for their kids. It allows the States and local school districts to set their own standards, enforce their own penalties for failure, and establish their own goals for their teachers and their students. With my bill, education accountability is transferred from D.C. bureaucrats back to the people who know the schools and the students personally.

See, under my proposal, States that feel that the regulation of NCLB is both necessary and beneficial to continue on, well, they can stay in the system. If they need Washington bureaucrats in their State to tell them what to do, well, they can stay in NCLB.

However, if the State's residents feel that the responsibility for educating their children is best left in the hands of the State, then this legislation will empower them to do so and keep the funding in place that the States rely on

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-woman from New York (Mrs. McCarthy) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, next week we'll be cele-

brating the 6th anniversary of the terrible attacks that happened on September 11 in New York, here in the Washington area, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

While we remember those that we lost, I hope that we also reflect on how our Nation, and especially this Congress, came together during the weeks and months that followed that terrible, terrible day.

Following 9/11, we, as Americans, demonstrated the best of all of us. Thousands volunteered to help with the rescue and recovery efforts on Ground Zero. Scores more donated money, gave blood, took time to help people that they didn't even know. Millions prayed for the families of those that lost loved ones. It was a remarkable time. People from all walks of life stood together with a renewed sense of purpose and compassion.

While we remember those we lost on this anniversary of September 11, let's also remember how we came together to help get America through perhaps the most difficult time in our history. Let's remember the firefighters, the police officers, the union workers who risked their lives to save others. Let's remember the families who lost loved ones on 9/11, who became advocates for commonsense laws down here in Washington that would prevent another tragedy from happening. These courageous men and women worked tirelessly so that other families wouldn't experience what they went through.

As each year passes, the needs of those affected by 9/11 change. We work with a number of families back on Long Island in my district, especially the children, that still need mental health care. We need to improve the health care for the recovery workers who put their lives on the line and are now suffering from illnesses. And local residents, it is still paramount in our minds to make sure that they stay healthy.

The long-term mental health of families and children who lost loved ones maintains its high importance. Most people will remember it as being post-traumatic syndrome. One never knows when those flashes of that day come back. Sometimes it takes years and years for the treatment to take hold.

The Fourth Congressional District, I want to salute such groups as the South Nassau Communities Hospital and the World Trade Center Family Center that have been working hard to address the mental health needs of the children affected by 9/11 and have made great progress in helping them cope with this horrible tragedy.

In my office, I have a painting that was done several years ago by a young child on how they saw the world. And through therapy, you can now see the paintings have improved with the sun shining, meaning the young child is getting on with their life. Their work is equally as important as the search and recovery efforts following the attacks, and I commend them for it.

On September 11, 2001, our hearts were broken, but our spirits grew stronger. On September 11, 2007, I can think of no better memorial to those we lost on 9/11 than making their children and grandchildren's world a better place.

Some will say time has passed and it's time to move on with their lives. I have worked with many of those 9/11 families, and they have moved on with their lives. But again, through every great tragedy one never knows when you'll break down and cry because you remember something.

Every American remembers September 11, the year 2001. Every American knows where they were that day. Every American came together to make sure that those that needed help would have it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the American people for standing together. I thank those that lost their lives to save other lives and, hopefully, we will never forget those that made the great sacrifices who still need our help. September 11 will be in everybody's minds forever in history. Let us not, here in this Congress, forget those that have survived but still need our help to get them through the illnesses they are facing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RICCIARDI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to Robert Ricciardi, a New York City fire-fighter who's retiring today after many years of service to the city of New York and to the people of New York.

Robert is an exemplary model of what makes the Fire Department of New York the best Fire Department in the world. Like many other fire-fighters, Robert spent a great deal of his free time volunteering throughout his community on Staten Island. He was an active member of his church and spent much time coaching youth sports. As a matter of fact, I bet tonight Robert will be at the St. Claire's gym for youth basketball tryouts.

Robert has served New York City with distinction as one of New York's bravest. Over the course of his career he's helped save the lives of countless people, risking his own safety to protect others. Like his fellow firefighters and so many throughout the country, Robert rushed into burning buildings as others ran in the opposite direction with a singular mission, to save the lives of the people whose names he did

not know, that he never met and might never see again. Robert understood that one of the most important contributions we can make is to help others in need. He's dedicated his life to this principle, and he leaves behind a great legacy of service.

Robert, like so many firefighters across Staten Island and the city also knew many who lost their lives on September 11, as the previous speaker just mentioned, and with that, he carries that with him throughout his life.

We also know that Staten Island and all of New York are better off because of Robert's dedication and decision to be one of New York City's bravest. His service will be clearly missed, but we are fortunate that Robert will continue to be a positive force in our local community. We wish Robert and his wife, Dorine, along with their four children, Robert, Christian, Nicole and Gregory, the best of luck in their future, wherever it may take them.

I'm honored to call Robert a friend, and I'm delighted to have this opportunity to say thank you for all that you've done for New York City.

Good luck, Robert. We wish you well.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE NEW DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today marks the eighth month since my colleagues and I were given the privilege to enter this sacred institution to represent our respective districts across the country. The Democratic freshman class, one of the largest in recent history, also came at an historic time in changing control of both houses of Congress and leading America in a new direction.

Much has changed in eight months. Much has changed personally for each and every one of us. Eight months ago I stood in this very spot with my 2-month-old son, Gus, as we were sworn into this esteemed body. My 5-year-old was a kindergartner at the time.

Well, now, 8 months later, Gus is 10 months old, on the verge of walking; and that kindergartner is now an experienced first grader.

Much has changed for us professionally. I had the opportunity last week to go back and address the school where I taught. Many of us came to this institution from many different walks of life. We were teachers. We were newspapermen. We were law en-

forcement officers. We were physicians. We were farmers. We were many different things. But each and every one of us came to this institution with a very sacred duty: to change the direction that America was going; to listen to the American public; and to make sure that this institution was once again judged on effectiveness, not ideology. And this Congress has done just that.

This Congress has changed the priorities that have permeated Washington for the past 12 years. This new Congress has changed things from some of the most historic funding for veterans to the most sweeping ethics reform, described as some of the biggest changes since the Watergate era.

We have much to be proud of and much work yet to do. The Democratic freshman class was given an opportunity to change the course and to change the debate.

I had the opportunity to speak with some reporters asking what will the legacy be? What will this class have accomplished when all is said and done? And I think, in looking at this group of people and having the sense of pride that I have in serving with them, that the answer will not be known for many years. This class has thrown themselves into their work with such due diligence that I think the American people would be proud. We passed legislation not just on a Democratic agenda but on a bipartisan agenda.

We knew, each and every one of us that got here, that we did not come to this institution with an ideological mandate. We knew that the American people, when they were speaking last November, were not saying that they were enamored with just Democratic ideology. They were enamored with the speaking about changing the direction of the country, providing a new direction, providing ethics that actually work. Providing funding for our veterans, funding for our children, and taking this country in a new direction in the war on terror and what was happening in Iraq.

And I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues, and we are going to spend a little bit of time highlighting those achievements, and it is one that all American people should be proud of.

This Congress can do nothing with just one party. This Congress can do nothing with just ideology. When this Congress works together, things get done that would amaze the American people.

I, coming from Minnesota, have witnessed two of the biggest disasters that my State has ever witnessed. Back on August 1, the collapse of the I-35W bridge, to see a major interstate, eightlane highway, crash into the Mississippi River. We lost seven people with a hundred injured. That tragedy and the response to it illustrates what can be the best in America.

Within 60 hours, the House of Representatives and the Senate had passed

legislation to rebuild that bridge. It went to the President's desk within 72 hours, was passed, and the money is already flowing to the State of Minnesota to correct that.

Last week on August 19, we saw some of the most massive flooding in my district that had ever been witnessed, 17plus inches of rain in a 24-hour period. We had seven deaths and thousands of homes washed out. The response was quick. It was bipartisan. It was professional. And it is one that the American people should expect, not hope for.

While the rains were still falling. I toured the area in the first few hours with the Republican Governor of Minnesota. The following day I toured with the Republican Senator and a Democratic Senator, and we held a news conference together with the Republican Governor. On Tuesday, President Bush was in Minnesota saying he would do everything he could to support us. On Wednesday, the Governor asked for a declaration, a disaster declaration, and on Thursday the President approved it. By the weekend FEMA was on the ground and people were rebuilding their lives.

That is what the American people should expect out of government: it is effectiveness; not its ideology; its bipartisanship, and it can be judged on what we do for the American public.

Those things have happened. They have happened across the board. They have happened in great numbers. And it is a message that I think the American people should be proud of.

As I said, much has changed. Much has changed for me personally. This is the first year I didn't start a school year teaching in a classroom. But I said many of those years, those 20 years in the classroom, taught me something about the next generation of Americans. They are optimistic. They believe that the best days are yet to come. They have a vision that can extend beyond the next election into the next generation. Our young people understand this. The American people understand this.

My colleagues are here not out of anything great that they personally did, but they are here and this change is happening because of the greatness of the American public. The American public and the system knew it needed to self-correct itself. It needed to bring change to this institution, and that change is happening.

So for the next few minutes, we are going to discuss some of those. I am privileged to be joined by my colleague from Kentucky, another one of the freshmen that came here that sprung up from this greatness of the American public and brought a message of change, of optimism, of prosperity that all of us can benefit from.

With that, I yield to my colleague from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Minnesota for yielding. And I want to join many of us in expressing my great empathy for him

and the residents of his State who have gone through so much recently. And we all, I think, not only empathize but sympathize with what the people of Minnesota have had to go through, and I know we all stand ready to help in anv wav that we can.

But my colleague is right, Mr. Speaker. When we all came to this body last year right after being elected and we all met for our orientation and, as freshmen, we met for the first time and started comparing notes, it was clear that we all came with pretty similar mandates. We were sent by our people to change what was going on in this country. We were sent by the people of this country to deal with energy problems. We were sent by the people of this country to deal with a dysfunctional health care system. We were sent by the people of this country to deal with the income and wealth inequality that has put such a strain on the great working families of this country and has seen the wealthiest people in America have their wealth increased by leaps and bounds while, as the census report just mentioned last week, 95 percent of the people in this country have not seen their standard of living improve over the last 6 years.

We were sent by the people of this country to do something about the education system, to make sure it not only leaves no child behind but moves every child forward; that we work with the most gifted kids and we work with the kids posing the greatest challenge; that each one of them will have the best that our teachers have to offer and have the greatest support system that we can provide for them.

And foremost of all these things, the people of America sent us to Congress with one overriding thought, and that was to change direction in Iraq.

And it is very interesting because I know that the people on the other side, our colleagues in the Republican Party, want to try to spin our activities by saying, well, we haven't really accomplished very much. Well, I think every one of us knows how hard we have worked over the last 8 months to accomplish the mission that the people of the United States sent us here for.

We have dealt with minimum wage, increasing the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years. We have dealt with the energy situation. We tried to eliminate the great and unnecessary tax cuts that were given to the oil companies when they were making record profits. We dealt with health care, not just recently by trying to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover 5 million more American children, but also in trying to save money and make the system more efficient by forcing the pharmaceutical companies to negotiate with Medicare in the Medicare part D program.

In every area of our jurisdiction, we have tried to respond to the demands of the American people. We have listened to them. We are dealing right now with the revision of No Child Left Behind.

The changes we are making in that program stem directly from what we have heard from the American people. We are listening. We are acting. We are moving.

And so it is with not only a great deal of personal disgust but also with a sense of outrage that I listened to President Bush make a statement when he was halfway around the world in comparing this Congress, this body, with the Parliament in Iraq. And I know he likes to be cute and that is the way he is, but for him to stand halfway across the world before international cameras and international media and tout the fact that the Iraqi Parliament has passed 60 bills when, according to him, we haven't passed that many in this session of Congress to me is an outrage. It's not even factually correct. We have sent him 57 bills; he signed 55. We have passed several hundred bills in this House.

But the most important thing is look at what he has done. Look at the vetoes he has threatened, the vetoes he has actually made. He has already threatened to veto 10 out of 12 appropriations bills we passed in this body. After the committees in this body, both parties working hand in hand, have dealt with these issues and the budgeting for months and months and months, he says arbitrarily, they weren't my budgets, it wasn't what I asked for and, therefore, I'm going to veto them.

For him to criticize the United States Congress for not passing legislation is like the Vice President criticizing his lawyer friend for getting in the way when he shot him. I mean, if anyone is more responsible for retarding and obstructing the work of this body, it is the President of the United States and his party. And it happens day after day. It happens hour after hour. And the only reason it happens is because the Republican Party and the President of the United States have run out of initiatives. They have run out of ideas. They know the American people have rejected their agenda, and they are looking for a new direction. and they just simply don't want to see us succeed.

But that's not what we're here for. We're here to continue working. We're going to generate the type of grassroots support for what we've done. We know it's out there. We're listening to the people. They will be listening to what we're doing, and they will force this Republican Party and this President to move in our direction.

I am convinced that we are doing the right thing, that we are working, we are making progress for the American people. We will continue to do that under the great leadership we have in Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader HOYER. And I know eventually the Republican Party will come to their senses and they will begin to realize that the American people want us to act to solve the very demanding, the very challenging problems that face

this country. We are about that task. That's why we came here. That's what we will continue to do as long as we are here.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky. And he sums it up well. One of the things that the American public is most frustrated with is the idea of nothing happening or obstructionism. And I think some know that there is a difference between legislation and politics. But most people in America don't want to deal with the political side of it. They want to see the effectiveness.

And I should note 8 months ago on this day a couple of major changes were made that we were able to make. We have three branches of government, but the business that happened in this House for both sides of the aisle can be changed with rule changes. And on that first day we made some major rule changes that affect the American public, to understand that rhetoric is not good enough, that action is what is demanded.

The first thing that we did is we enacted PAYGO budgeting. No more blank checks. No more recklessly spending our children's rightful inheritance to this country by putting in fiscal policies that are short-term, feelgood tax breaks for very few Americans. PAYGO budgeting is exactly what the American people live by. It is how every middle-class American has to get by in their own life. And this House of Representatives finally put that in. By doing so, we will do something that the American people should expect to happen: We will balance the Federal budget by 2012.

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But that's not good enough. We have a \$9 trillion deficit. The idea that this Congress has been able to tell people you can have something for nothing, you can give tax cuts to the wealthiest and underfund programs, what's happened is this country is using the equity in our own country that belongs rightfully to our children and spending it now. Those days are over. PAYGO is a rule of this House and it will continue to be so as long as the Democratic Congress stays as it is.

The other major change was one that the American people simply don't understand. Many of us who came here didn't understand it, and many of us were incredibly frustrated by it, how this sacred institution, the most important, deliberative legislative body, democratic institution the world has ever seen has an image problem when it comes to ethics. Every single Member who walks through this door should be very, very cognizant of what this means to the American people.

So the ethics changes that were taken up 8 months ago, I think the American public would probably be hard-pressed to even believe that it didn't happen. The difference between 8 months ago and today is simply this: Lobbyists will no longer be able to pro-

vide one penny in food, not one penny in gifts, and not one penny in travel to any Member of this body. Now, that's a far sight from golf trips to Scotland and special interests that we had seen before. Those who think that the election of last November made no difference, look no further than K Street to understand the changes that happened here. Ethics changes have been sweeping.

Now, one of the things in standing here and talking about these things. I think there is a sense of frustration amongst many of us, the game seems to be coming from the other side of the aisle, is to delay and slow everything down and to drive the approval rating of this Congress as low as it can possibly go. None of us should be happy with the fact that when a Presidential approval rating is as low as this President's is and a congressional approval rating is as low as this body is right now, that's nothing to be proud of. And it's nothing to point one finger at each side of the aisle. What we're doing is we're undermining the basic tenet of this great democracy. And for those who think that this is someplace else. it's full of your neighbors, it's full of the people you work with, it's full of the teachers, the newspapermen, the law enforcement officers that you sent here. It is incumbent upon this institution to get the ethics changes right.

So we have passed some of the most sweeping ethics changes. And soon, maybe by the end of today, we will see the President sign in more of that; tightening up of not only the bans on gifts, but also making sure that bundled contributions to campaigns are being shown, that we know who's giving money, that we understand who is trying to look at and who is trying to influence decisions that are made in this House.

Now, one of the things I would like to say is that, speaking of your own accomplishments, there is a saying in Minnesota, "Act and let others do the speaking for you." I want to quote a few things that have come out of newspapers basically over the last 30 days of all things that are happening here. We have a couple of things here. "Democrats who control Congress headed into a summer recess having passed several high-profile bills, raising the minimum wage, bolstering U.S. security, expanding children's health care. Their top priority, ending the Iraq war, remains frustratingly unfulfilled. But the Democrats who took over in January were able to go home last month for a month-long break having won more support in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives for bringing combat troops home by next year than any time before, marking a significant turnaround from last year." Reuters of August 5 of this year.

"Some non-partisan observers agree, Democrats have reason to boast. Democrats have had a good run legislatively over the past few weeks, and that does help them going into the recess," said Larry Sabato, Director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"Congressional Democrat majority made major strides towards implementing its domestic agenda before going home. It will face hurdles when lawmakers return at summer's end, President Bush being the main one. Farm bills, lobbying reform, energy, education, children's health insurance, all advanced in the final 10 days, establishing House Speaker NANCY PELOSI as a major legislative player." Wall Street Journal.

"Besides their success on increasing the minimum wage, ethics and lobbying, September 11 Commission recommendations, Democrats have moved forward with initiatives to expand health insurance for all of America's children through the SCHIP program, a shift in U.S. energy policy away from reliance on foreign fossil fuels. They have helped focus the war debate on the question of when, not if, U.S. forces will be pulling out." The Los Angeles Times.

"I have long been and continue to be an advocate of congressional oversight as a fundamental element of our system of government. I also have publicly expressed my belief that congressional debate on Iraq has been constructive, appropriate and necessary." That last one coming from Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates.

This Congress is making changes. This Congress is listening to the American public. This Congress is taking what it can control in its own hands, like rules, and strengthening them, making sure that ethics reform is a top priority, making sure that people can once again walk in this building, see this American flag, understand the history that's been written here, and trust the Members that have been here to do the duty of the American public. And in doing so, we have passed some of the most sweeping legislation.

The first one I want to talk a little bit about is veterans issues. Now, in serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, it's something that, of course, is very near and dear to my heart, something that I can't say that it's a personal sense of pride, but it's one of a personal sense of responsibility. The House historian notified me, after a week or two here in Congress, that as a retired command sergeant major in the Army National Guard, that I was the top ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress. Now, those Members familiar with the military understand that being an enlisted soldier brings a sense of responsibility of making sure troops are taken care of.

So to sit on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and watch the historic progress that has been made on veterans issues, I think it's interesting to keep a couple of facts in mind. In the 77-year history that we've had a Veterans Administration or the Veterans Affairs, in that 77-year history there has never been the infusion of resources given to that administration as

we've seen in the last 8 months. There is a group of veteran service organizations led by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Paralyzed American Veterans, the American Legion, that each and every year for the last 22 years have put together what they call the independent budget. And this independent budget does something very simple. It takes a look at the needs of all American veterans. It determines how many veterans are going to need services, whether it be veterans health care, reemployment, educational benefits, and the gamut of resources that we provide our veterans for the service they do this country. They take that number and then they figure out the real dollar cost of providing exactly those services, services that were promised, services that were guaranteed to our veterans when they signed up or were drafted to serve this Nation at times of peace and times of war. They take those two numbers and they put it in a budget and they send it to Congress. They say, you have X number of veterans at X number of cost; therefore, you should budget X number of dollars. And for the past 21 years, Congress has failed to meet that.

Congress has so blatantly understated the need that the current administration stated 3 years ago, when they made their budget, that their determination was that we would see fewer veterans and the cost of veterans health care would go down. Most of us will take the bet that the sun will not rise tomorrow before that would happen. And guess what? It did not happen. So we were left, 2 years ago, with a nearly \$2 billion shortfall in taking care of our veterans. And the decision came then, who doesn't get care? Who do we turn away? And the answer was simply, turn away Priority 8 veterans. We will prioritize these veterans.

Now, Priority 8 veterans, to the American public, that may not seem like too much, but a Priority 8 veteran is this. It's someone in my district making \$27,701 or more can be thrown off as a Priority 8. That can be a combat veteran. That can be a veteran of our conflicts, our current conflicts, Vietnam, or World War II, determined mostly on the economic scale, not the need, the accessibility, not what was promised to them, not what the right thing to do was. But lo and behold, you knock off several million veterans, and look, we had a balanced budget. That's not the way this Congress is going to deal with it. That is not the way this Congress is going to keep their responsibilities. And in this budget, we increased \$3.6 million in veterans funding over the President's request.

When we passed that piece of legislation by, I believe, and I believe this is correct, I may be off by one or two, 409–2 was when this passed, and that piece of legislation was being threatened to be vetoed in that appropriations by this President. One of the 12 appropriations bills which, by the way, for the

first time in a decade, all 12 were done on time, all were done by the August recess. That, in addition to passing nine earlier this year that were not done from last year's work.

So for any American who listens to the rhetoric, who listens to people talk about nothing being done, the question would be, can they back that up with fact? We can back it up with fact.

We've made some major changes on dealing with the current situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. The signature injuries of this war is the traumatic brain injuries and the concussive injuries caused by improvised explosive devices. They have become more sophisticated over time in the damage that they're doing.

The care our soldiers are receiving on the battlefield is second to none. It is the best care that has ever been given in the history of warfare on this planet. One of the problems with that is we are sending soldiers home with horrible injuries, injuries that are going to be with them for a lifetime, that is going to take a lifetime of care. And what this Congress has done is we passed legislation introducing new research dollars, new research centers, five of them, to be placed around the country in conjunction with our VA hospitals that have our polytrauma centers, the ones that are dealing with these concussive injuries. And we're going to put the funding there, we're going to put the research there, and it's going to do something. It's going to provide care not only to the soldiers, but it's going to provide the necessary resources to the families that are going to have to adjust their entire lives to deal with the damage that has been done by these injuries. This is not something that these veterans and their families should feel lucky to have. It's not something that they should have to come here, even though that's exactly what happens, and lobby this Congress to do that. It's what is the morally right thing to do. It is also the best way to show future generations of our young people who want to serve this country, who want to defend this country, that if they do so, we will be there every step of the way.

What we're seeing coming out of this conflict is post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention. We passed H.R. 327, Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. That is starting to get centers up and running. It's starting to do more identification. We are now screening every single soldier who returns from this conflict for traumatic brain injury and for post-traumatic stress disorder.

We are changing the way that we welcome our soldiers home. We are changing the way that we treat them and we screen them and we bring they and their families into the process of making them whole again.

We have the Rural Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act. One of the things we have a problem with, and this is one the American people should

be incredibly frustrated with that I, as a veteran, was, our veterans who have to travel to VA centers to get health care are reimbursed at the 1978 rate of 11 cents a mile. And I have a veteran, a first sergeant no less, who saw combat duty in Korea. When he brought this up about a year ago to an official, he was simply told to get a more fuelefficient automobile. Now, this Congress has found fit to reimburse itself at 48½ cents a mile. At some point, the American public should ask where is the hypocrisy in who we're treating and who should receive the benefit. But those have changed.

We also introduced legislation that changed the GI Bill. We have soldiers, in the units that I served with, in the 34th Division who served the longest tour of duty in the war of Iraq of any unit in the U.S. military, 22 months. These are the same soldiers that, 14 months previously, served a tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the war in Afghanistan. And the way the GI Bill is written, these soldiers have been gone for 4 years. Many of them signed up for a 6-year commitment. Their commitment is coming to an end, and at the same time, their benefits. They would have been able to use their GI Bill had they not been out fighting a war to defend America, had they not been doing what they were asked to do, and because of that they were losing their benefit. Previous Congresses took no action to correct that. This Congress did. That's taking care of our veterans. That's not only standing in front of them for photo opportunities, it's standing behind them.

I am proud to say this new Congress puts its money where its mouth is. It truly supports our veterans. It understands that it's bipartisan. And this is a great accomplishment.

At this point, I would like to yield a little time to my colleague from Kentucky to talk about a few more initiatives.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman.

I would like to follow up on something to which you alluded because I think it's really important. This Congress has not only taken on a lot of new initiatives and has tried to deal with substantial problems that face this country and our people, but it has also made up for a lot of lost ground and a lot of inactivity in prior Congresses. And we hate to sound partisan around here, and I know the American people don't want us to be partisan, they want us to work together, and I think we have tried to work together and to reach out, but the fact remains that over the last 6 years the Congress did not do a lot of the things that it was supposed to do. We've seen the impact in a lot of ways. We've seen the impact on our budget, where we have increased the Federal debt. the national debt by \$3 trillion, 50 percent over the last 6 years. That's because the previous Congresses were not doing their fiscal accounting the right way.

We've seen time after time, program after program, you mentioned veterans. We also had situations with education. We've had situations with health care where basic research that we were supposed to be funding has been cut. A lot of human services have been cut or zeroed out in past budgets. So we've not only had to take new initiatives, but we've had to make up for a lot of lost ground and programs that have affected a lot of Americans adversely. So we've had a lot to do.

And another area we've had a lot to do, and this is, again, something you alluded to, my colleague from Minnesota has alluded to, is that we've had to finally provide the accountability for many of the operations of government which have basically gone unsupervised for the last 6 years. We've seen it time after time after time. We've seen it in the reconstruction effort in Iraq. We've seen it in cases of fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid situations. We've seen it in the enforcement of coal mine safety rules. We've seen it in environmental regulations. Across the entire spectrum of government we have seen time after time where problems in the operation of government have basically gone unsupervised and unaccounted for.

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We have taken steps to do that. I hope that the American people all have the occasion, for instance, to read the new Rolling Stone where there is an article about all of the subcontracting, the private contracting in Iraq, and the billions and billions of dollars which have been lost or essentially stolen by fraudulent activities by contractors in no-bid contracts and in sweetheart contracts given to friends of the administration. Nobody was looking at these deals until this Congress decided to take action and look at them. And now we have tried to implement new contracting laws and new supervision so that the taxpayers' dollars are accounted for. This is what the Congress is supposed to do. This is what we're doing.

Again, it comes to me as an incredible affront for the President of the United States to stand halfway around the world and say to the world that this Congress is not doing what it should be doing and that it is not functioning as effectively as the most dysfunctional parliament in the world, which is the Iraqi Parliament. I can't imagine what the American people would say if Speaker Pelosi or my colleague from Minnesota, or any one of our Members went to Australia or went to Iraq and compared President Bush unfavorably to Mr. Maliki. There would be an outcry unheard like anything in this country. And yet the President does it in Australia and criticizes this Congress. I hope the American people respond with the same degree of outrage which I think they would, and probably justifiably, if we were out there comparing him to Prime Minister Maliki.

I would like to expand on that a little bit, just for the sake of having fun. since the President likes to be cute and have fun when he makes these statements. Since he was so interested in the Iraqi Parliament, let's talk about what the Iraqi Parliament has done with regard to some of the benchmarks that they were supposed to make progress on. We're going to get a report from General Petraeus in a few days. But the Government Accountability Office has already given us a report on the progress of the Iraqi Parliament, the one that Mr. Bush seems to appreciate so much.

One of the benchmarks, enacting and implementing legislation on de-Baathification, nothing done. Laws were drafted, not passed. Enacting and implementing legislation to ensure the equitable distribution of hydrocarbon resources of the people of Iraq, none being considered by the Parliament. Enacting and implementing legislation on procedures to form semiautonomous regions, that one they did enact a law. Enacting and implementing legislation establishing an Independent High Electoral Commission, provincial elections law, provincial council authorities, and a date for provincial elections supporting laws, not enacted. Enacting and implementing legislation addressing amnesty, no law drafted. Enacting and implementing legislation establishing a strong militia disarmament program to ensure that such security forces are accountable only to the central government and loyal to the constitution of Iraq, no laws drafted. Nothing done.

So this is the great Iraqi Parliament that President Bush seems to appreciate when he is standing halfway across the world. The fact of the matter is, this Congress has acted. It has acted in so many areas that I am so proud to speak of and that my colleague has done such an excellent job of enumerating. But this Congress continues to work in education, in health care, in the environmental issues, and, yes, in Veterans Affairs, for the great heroes of our country to whom we made a critical promise when they decided to give their service. We had made a promise to them, and we haven't been keeping it. This Congress is going to make sure that we do keep it, even though prior Congresses and this administration is not.

So again, I am very proud of the record that this Congress has assembled over the last 8 months. I am, again, ashamed of the President of the United States for what he said in Australia. But I hope he will come back. I hope he will realize that his legacy is going to depend, to a certain extent, on how he reaches out to us and deals with us over the next 15 months.

The Constitution begins with article 1, which vests the legislative authority in this country in this body, not in him. Now, he doesn't seem to have read the Constitution. With 700 or so signing statements in which he said he is basi-

cally going to ignore what this Congress does with executive orders, vetoes, and virtually every other parliamentary procedure or technical procedure he can use to invalidate the work of this Congress, I think basically he has a lot to answer for, both to the American people and to us. The Constitution vests the legislative authority in this body. We are doing our job. We will continue to do our job.

I ask the President and the Republicans on the other side of the aisle and in the other body to recognize that this is our job. We are the ones mentioned by article 1. We are mentioned first in the establishment of this government, and I think we will continue to act first in the interests of the American people.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. The gentleman's point, one of the things that is very well taken is that the genius of our system lies in the system of checks and balances, the oversight that should have been provided. Now, those of us who were expressing grave misgivings about the President's plan to basically simply trust him that he had a plan for Iraq, to trust him that he had a plan on this, and any of us who spoke out and said, the responsibility for enacting foreign policy lies between the Congress and the President, carrying out the military side of it will always be done with great professionalism.

But as we ask the questions, what is the step beyond the military? What is the step for political gain in Iraq? What is the bigger picture, the geopolitical picture, of the Middle East? When we started asking those questions for 3 years prior to this Congress coming, we were told we were unpatriotic, that we were somehow undermining the troops. Forget that we funded them in terms of the VA and everything else at a historic level once we got here. We were told that. This oversight and this ability to check the executive branch is exactly what the American people are looking at.

I stress it and say it again. I do not believe that the American public were enamored strictly with Democratic ideology. But I can tell you what they were disgusted with; the belief of the sense of righteousness that was coming that there could be no room for debate, there was no room to compromise, there was no room to listen to the experts, and there was no reason to back off and say, "Perhaps we were wrong." That's what we heard. That's what we heard for 6 years from this administration. That's what we heard with a Congress that provided this President no reason to veto. None. Zero. Why should he? They were writing the legislation. The President has been using the word "veto" in almost every sentence since we came here. That tells me the system is working beautifully. That tells me that the system is providing those checks and balances.

In this idea of oversight, there are a couple of important pieces of legislation that I would like to bring up and

then talk about how bills are now being written here, how laws are being enacted, and how the rhetoric that gets to the American people is all based on spin and politics. It is not based on reality.

The first of these is the Rail Safety Act. We had a sense in this country over time, and it was fought for by our grandparents and by our great-grandparents, it was fought for by every generation, to provide safe working conditions for our workers, to provide child labor laws, to provide good, safe ability of our people to make a living and return home to their families at the end of a hard day. The Rail Safety Act was to be authorized by Congress to oversee the operations of our railroads. Well, for the last 12 years, Congress has basically said, "We should just let the rail industry determine their own safety". That is pretty much how we did it with airlines prior to September 11. "They'll provide it." No thought that maybe the purpose of business is to provide returns to their investors. No thought that maybe they would try and save a little money by cutting off safety at the expense of what might happen. So for 12 years, we have sat around and we have done nothing to reenact the Rail Safety Act.

This year we have already held three hearings. There will be a reauthorization of this. I have sat in those hearings in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and watched rail workers come up and talk about how many long hours they are being forced to work, how their grievance process is held up and never listened to, how we are simply running on borrowed time before we are going to see a major accident, and how we have seen the data that has shown we are no safer. I have listened to people from the railroads testify in front of our committee and tell me how safe it was and how the numbers are comparable to previous years. And I have to note, "but your numbers only went to October of last year. We had 3 more months that you didn't include."

"Oh, yeah, sorry about that."

That's the type of thing that went on. The American public doesn't expect us to take one side or another. They expect us to stand here, look at data, be fair, work with our colleagues across the aisle, hold firm to our convictions, disagree on issues, but do it agreeably, and come to a consensus that works. Don't try to figure out what the talking point is. Don't try and figure out how you can make the other side look bad. I spend a lot of time down here watching how much time goes in watching my colleagues make sure they say "Democrat" in-stead of "Democratic." If it weren't so sad, it would be funny. But the problem is that's one small area that is a much bigger problem, that it's about the message, not about the effectiveness.

The second one I want to talk about is a very important one. Maybe many Americans don't know about it, but we

have been waiting 8 years to get a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act, the WRDA bill. The WRDA bill deals with everything from transportation, clean water, everything in this country dealing with how we work with one of our most precious natural resources, our lakes and rivers. In my State of Minnesota, one of the most important assets economically. environmentally and culturally is the Mississippi River. It is something that is so inherently ingrained in who we are as Americans and those States that are on that river that how we treat it and how we deal with it is critically important. Well, the locks and dams that make Minnesota a major shipper of our grain in the breadbasket of America are over 70 years old. They're in decay. We need to invest in the upkeep of these. That can only be done, the locks and dams on the upper Mississippi, through the Water Resources Development Act. We need to pass that. We need to move it forward so that our economic vision will extend to our children.

For 8 years, nothing was done. Nothing was invested in. And now, today, taking it one step further, I sat in a hearing in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee dealing with the state of the bridges in our country. Now, it's obviously very timely. It has obviously been driven by the catastrophic and horrific collapse of the I-35W bridge in Minnesota. But when you see a map highlighting the thousands of structurally deficient bridges across this country, and I watch the administration's representatives say, "We've got plenty of money to take care of this. We don't need to find a new revenue source," the aversion to speaking together and taking something off the table before we've had a chance to debate it is absolutely something the American people will no longer tolerate. This Congress has said, "We need to figure out how to get these bridges funded." If it is through a Federal gas tax, then let's talk about it. And if it is through public-private partnerships, let's talk about them. If it is through reprioritizing how we use the resources we have, let's talk about them.

But we don't get that. What we get is slogans and radio ads talking about Democrats want to tax. Democrats don't want to tax. Democrats just want a country that works. This new Congress wants to have that discussion. We have sat here and watched bill after bill after bill go through subcommittees, committees, the full House, and minutes before we are to vote on it, the other side brings up a motion to recommit, which means a new piece of legislation. Most of the time, I have already got it down pretty well, is this one immigration or is this one felons? Which one are they going to bring up? They bring these up so they can go to the American people and tell them, "They didn't vote against giving benefits to illegal immigrants." Well, one of the reasons we didn't do that was because they're not telling you the whole story. First is, it's already illegal and it doesn't happen. Secondly, the little part of the line that they don't say is, it would totally gut the funding of the piece of legislation we put out there.

That type of politics has the American public frustrated beyond all belief. Those two pieces of legislation, Rail Safety Act and the WRDA bill, should be absolutely nonpartisan. They should have maybe some philosophical differences on how you administer that or possibly how you pay for it. But here was the solution we had: "Let's not regulate it. Let's not provide oversight. Let's let the corporations themselves do so. That's the best way to do that."

Well, the American public has rejected that. The American public has said, no. The American public says, We're not against regulation. We're against excessive regulation.

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We are against regulation that doesn't make sense in terms of safety and the ability of our railroads to profit. But somehow because we are asking for these pieces of legislation to go through, that we are not supportive of economic growth, is ludicrous, especially on the WRDA bill.

Everybody agrees that the WRDA bill will be a major economic driver. It will put billions of dollars into the economy in terms of rebuilding and rehabilitating the locks and dams and other resources, as well as speeding up the transportation time. The Mississippi River has such a bottleneck near St. Louis that we can barely move cargo through that. We have an aging infrastructure, bridges that are unsafe, roads that are clogged.

The solution from the administration, they are talking about congestion pricing. That means we will charge a higher toll on roads that are busy in order to force people off them. I guess they assume that some of us are just driving around in the mornings, not taking our kids to school, not going to work; that we just like driving and clogging the roads. So the best thing is those of us who can't afford us, get us off the roads so those lanes will be nice and wide open for the people who can afford to pay to go down them.

The American public said that is not a solution. Get something else and debate it. That is what we are trying to

Now I would like to take a minute to explain to you how I believe and what I have seen and what I was hoping when I left that high school classroom, when I came to this building, when I came to this sacred floor, how I was hoping legislation would work. I live in southern Minnesota. It is one of the most productive agricultural lands in the Nation; in the world, I should say.

The county I live in is called Blue Earth County. People on the prairie are pretty literal. When they call towns Plainview, that is because that is what you see. When they called that

county Blue Earth, that is because the soil there is so black and so rich that when the sun shines on it on the summer days, it literally looks blue. This is land that can produce 200 bushels an acre of corn. This is land that feeds the world.

The farm bill is an important piece of legislation to that district but also across the country. The farm bill is a big piece of legislation that has historically been very, very bipartisan. That is because 66 or so percent of the farm bill deals with nutrition programs; how we feed our children in schools, how we feed our seniors, how we feed those who are not fortunate enough or need to use food stamps or other programs. That is 66 percent of

About 12 percent deals with the safety net that keeps our farmers in business, that provides this country the cheapest, most abundant, safest form of food at the least expensive disposable income of any nation in the world. That farm bill does that. It also provides things like rural development. It also provides conservation measures.

Well, here is how the farm bill was written. When I got here to Congress and was placed on that committee, we were given the instructions by the chairman of that committee in January to spend the next 2 months going out and listening to everybody, holding sessions, holding hearings, soliciting information, doing whatever you could to let people start writing that farm bill, because here was the directive. The farm bill would be written by the people through the subcommittee, to the full committee, to the House of Representatives, and then we would get a piece of legislation that we could be truly proud of.

So we did it. I went out and held 14 listening sessions throughout my district. It varied in attendance from maybe 50 to 150 people. It varied from teachers to social workers, of course farmers, agribusiness people. And as they came there, they came with a lifetime of ideas. They came with a vision of what agriculture should look like in America, and they wanted to be part of the process.

So they came and told me this: Congressman WALZ, the average farmer in the first district is 58 years old. We are getting old and our children are leaving. It is very difficult to get into farming.

So groups as diverse as the American Farm Bureau and the Land Stewardship Project and the Farmer's Union got together, and each of them had proposed different ideas on beginning farmer and rancher legislation. Their members came to these meetings and explained the need for this.

We, myself, my staff, the ag committee staff, got together and helped write legislation. That legislation was taken into and offered up in the subcommittees as amendments to the farm bill. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle debated both for and

against this piece of legislation and offered secondary amendments to change it, which we debated, accepted some, rejected some. When we were done, we had a piece of legislation that was heralded by most farm groups as a major step forward in making agriculture accessible to future generations.

That piece of legislation got added in. It was not written by special interest; it was written by people who care about this. Did special interest have their say? Of course they did. Our job was to sort that out.

Well, that piece of legislation in the farm bill happened in all the subcommittees, and that piece of legislation was debated in the full committee and that piece of legislation passed out of the full committee and came to the House floor. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I can guarantee you this, many of them, especially those in farm country, said this is a good piece of legislation.

Bipartisan groups, groups that were on the spectrum of politics about as far apart as you could get from one another, from environmental groups to production ag groups, were saying: You know what, I think they got it right. And then as we brought it to the floor, one of the things that we had to do was figure out how this thing is going to be paid through the whole process. Because commodity processes have been high in past years, we did not pay about \$60 billion in subsidy payments, whether it be direct payments, contracyclical payments.

So what happened was when we budgeted under PAYGO, our budget for this year's farm bill was \$60 billion less. So when we got to the end it became apparent, because Democrats wanted do make sure we did something as simple as this, we let the Food Stamp Program, senior feeding programs and some of our nutrition programs that had been underfunded for years, we wanted to do something as simple as boost them up to a level that people could get the caloric intake they needed to have a healthy diet, and then we wanted to peg it to inflation to make sure that what we put in the bill this year isn't eaten up by inflation next vear. Doing any budgeting without considering inflation, to me, seems disingenuous.

So we did that. The way we came up paying for it was a suggestion given to us by President Bush and his budget director. They had identified several years ago approximately \$7½ billion in uncollected taxes from companies, in the President's own words, that were inappropriately using the U.S. Tax Code to shift their tax burden by shifting profits to offshore entities, mainly in the Caribbean, Bermuda being the one, meaning foreign corporations doing business in America, making a profit here, shifting that profit to Bermuda and reporting zero in tax liabil-

The President said it was inappropriate, as did his budget director. We

agreed with him. We closed that loophole, asking them to do the thing that is most American of all, pay your fair share and take that money, put it in to enhance our nutrition programs.

Well, that was unacceptable because now that is considered a tax. That was the rhetoric that was coming. So now a decision has to be made. Are the American public, when they listen to this farm bill that needs to pass, and, by the way, we told them in January that we would have it done by the end of July, and there wasn't a single person that thought that was possible. Well, it was done. It was done by the end of July. We took it home.

I went to Farmfest, Redwood Falls, Minnesota to wide acclaim for this piece of legislation. It is not perfect. Nothing here is. It is a compromise. But it is a good one. It is good for rural America. It is good for our nutrition programs. It is good for our economy.

Well, that thing is now under a veto threat by the President. So the President has a decision. He can stand in front of the American public and say "I am going to veto a really nice piece of legislation that was worked on from the grassroots level." exactly how you would hope the American democratic system works, "and I am going to veto that because I believe that those foreign corporations have the right to avoid paying their taxes," or he can tell the American public, "You know was This worked what? bipartisanly, this was done correctly, and we should vote together on this.'

We should tell the American public, this isn't about politics. This isn't about trying to get a campaign ad that says the Democrats are trying to raise taxes. This is about doing the right thing that we can all take credit for. That needs to happen. Now I would say the ball is in the President's court. The ball is in his court when it comes from the Senate to do exactly that. This Congress will continue to do that.

The last thing I would like to talk a little bit about is this new direction. One of the things that I think Democrats are rightfully proud of, it is the first piece of legislation many of us got to cosponsor, that was the small business tax relief and the raising of the minimum wage.

This piece of legislation, we know it has been over a decade since we saw a raising of the minimum wage. Some of my colleagues say, what's the big deal? I have got many names and many stories I could tell them why it is a big deal to raise the minimum wage, why the 3 million children living in families with parents with minimum wage, it is probably a pretty big deal to them.

But part of the story is focusing on the small business tax relief. The rhetoric that will come out is always one or the other, either/or, the false dichotomies. "Well, Democrats are for raising the minimum wage, but they are not for helping business." Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, we passed this and it was signed

Here are a couple things that it did, just to let you know. It was endorsed, by the way, by the Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Businesses. I don't hear my colleagues on the other side talking a whole lot about this. I think they should. It would be a good one for them to talk to their constituents about.

It extends a tax provision that lets small business owners write off more equipment each year for use in their trade or business, understanding that small businesses have a need for the infusion of capital purchases and things that they need to get started with their business, making sure they are able to write those off. Absolutely appropriate, absolutely the right use of the Tax Code, and absolutely a sense of investment in the future.

If we give these tax cuts, and some of them are pretty substantive, about \$4.84 billion total, it ensures married couples who jointly own a small business both receive credit for paying Social Security and medicare taxes.

I am at a loss to understand why over the last 12 years of Republican control that was never fixed. This is a pretty important fix, and it is one that small businesses understand is important. It includes enhanced tip credit to ensure employers don't lose current tax benefits when the minimum wage goes up; S Corp provisions to keep tax benefits of being a small business even as they grow and expand; and extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit through August of 2011.

These are things that are going to impact positively on small businesses. Seventy percent of our jobs are created in small businesses, employers with 50 or less employees. Those are the things that we have taken to do.

So those who would say nothing positive is being done, this Congress is not moving anything forward, would be remiss to look at the facts, what the facts have been. The most significant increase in veterans care that we have seen in the 77-year history, probably I think it is safe to say in this Nation's history; an ending of a 10-year period without a raise to the minimum wage for millions of American workers; a small business tax package that is going to enhance their ability to compete in the world: an ethics reform package that independently has been hailed as one of the most significant since Watergate, to bring back the dignity, to bring back the trust of the American people in this institution.

You heard some of the things about energy, focusing on energy independence. We have got a farm bill that is going to be one of the best we have seen. And when the President decides he is going to choose our farmers over foreign companies that avoid paying taxes, we are going to get a great farm bill.

We have got a Water Resources Development Act that is going to enhance our ability to compete in the world while adding billions of dollars in investments to our infrastructure.

We are going to clean up the Rail Safety Act. We have seen packages to education to make college more affordable, the most significant increase to Pell Grants. We have cleaned up what has been an absolute debacle in private lending, moving away from government-subsidized, low-interest loans to get our children through college by saying, gee, we have this vast pool of American kids who need to go to college to compete. Why shouldn't we profit from that? Why shouldn't we let private lenders make a whole bunch of money of them? That would be a good thing to do.

Now, that is quite a difference from what she said when I went to school, when future generations invested in me and said we are going to keep college as affordable as possible. We are going to make sure we use grants as much as we can, and we are going to make sure that the GI Bill can be used by these young people who are willing to sign up and they are able to get their education. That was wisdom. That was vision. That was nonpartisan.

Many of those accomplishments can be attributed to ideas coming from the Republican side of the aisle. Unfortunately, for the last few years, that hasn't been the case. But we have got a new direction. We have got a new optimism.

As I started speaking today, I talked about the changes each one of us have seen. We have been here for 8 months. In my home State of Minnesota, I am happy to tell you that I think I have witnessed change that all us want to know.

On August 19, as we talked a little bit about it, my district saw some the worst flooding that they have ever seen; 17 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. We had entire towns wiped out, towns of 2,500 to 3,000 people. I went into that town riding on a boat as people were leaving their second story windows as people were picking them up. We have seen catastrophic displacement of large numbers of people.

As I said, on Sunday, the rains were falling, and I was there with a Republican Governor. On Monday, a Republican Senator and a Democratic Senator, a Republican Governor and a Democratic Congressman toured together and promised to do everything that was possible. On Tuesday, a Republican President was in Minnesota pledging to the help of the U.S. Government. On Wednesday, a Republican Governor requested that help. And on Thursday, the administration delivered on that. By Sunday, FEMA was in the district caring for our people, taking care of the needs, and showing that, you know what? When we work together, there is nothing this Nation can't accomplish.

I am proud to be a member of this new class. It has been 8 months of change. The new direction we are going in is one that the American public wants. \sqcap 1815

SITUATION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIRES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the tone and the statement of our colleague who just completed his hour and was talking about what our country can do when we pull together. Over the next hour, I believe that several Members of the Republican Conference here in the House of Representatives will come down and share their perspectives gained, many of them from physically going to Iraq or Afghanistan, or both, during the recent August district work period when Members were back in their district and allowed to travel to give firsthand accounts of what they learned and their meetings with General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker and others, and a real up-to-date report on the situation in Iraq.

But I do agree with the gentleman in his closing comments that we must as a Nation take ownership again of certain things not even in a bipartisan way but in a nonpartisan way because these are America's problems. They are not Republican or Democratic problems. And frankly, as much as some people would like to say it or believe it or use it for political purposes, this is not President Bush's war; this is America's fight. President Bush and Vice President Cheney will be gone in just a little over a year. The problems will not go away. The threats will still be here. The challenges of this generation to answer our patriotic call to this Nation, to answer our responsibility in sacrifice and service will continue, I believe, for some time.

I did not go to Iraq in August, but my nephew did. Specialist Jeffrey Watts is now serving his country as a soldier in Iraq for the next 15 months as part of the 1-181st Field Artillery Brigade. I heard the gentleman from Minnesota talk about the deployments. What I was fascinated by when I was with the 1-181st earlier this summer as they shipped out to Fort Bliss to train to go to Iraq, is how many members of the 1-181st, and this is a National Guard unit, also deployed with the 278th from our Tennessee National Guard a year and a half ago and came back and redeployed with the 1-181st. They didn't have to but did; and how many vice versa went before, many of them because they are volunteering to serve their country in harm's way. In harm's way, big harm's way, because they love the opportunity to serve their country. They are incredibly selfless patriots of the highest order, and I do think this House comes together in praise of these valiant Americans who understand that freedom is not free and that somebody has to stand between a real threat and our civilian population, and that is what they are doing.

General Petraeus will be here next Monday with Ambassador Crocker to give us an update. Everybody is anticipating that, and you have this review and that review and these stats and those stats. And even the Government Accountability Office is heavily involved, as if they somehow supervise the Pentagon. But I think it is important for us all to prepare to listen objectively next Monday because I think you are hearing in a bipartisan way, Members like the gentleman from Washington State from the Democratic side who recently came back and clearly said much progress has been made. This Petraeus plan is working.

The guy who understands this insurgency threat more than anyone in our military and therefore anyone in the world is leading a new approach in Iraq. And the report will come beginning next week. And if we are objective, I think we will support his recommendations. If we are not objective and we have a political bias or an agen-

da, we may reject it.

Some of his words in anticipation of next week are already out. He talks about the extraordinary progress in the Anbar Province. General Petraeus says that was the result not of military actions certainly alone, it was the result of really a political shift where the population, led by the sheikhs of major tribes, decided to reject al Qaeda and its Taliban-like ideological behavior and the extremist behavior that they have come to associate with it.

He said: "That is what brought the level of violence down so dramatically, because al Qaeda no longer finds a hospitable place in the Euphrates River valley the way it certainly did in the past. We have been banging away at al Qaeda for years, but until we could hold them off with the help of the local population and local volunteers, those operations were never as meaningful as they have been in recent months. That is what we are trying to do in other locations in Iraq. That has also led to a rise in the detainee population over the last 6 months as more al Qaeda operatives have been caught. And while there is always a concern that they will gain strength, the pool of potential recruits has actually shrunk. Their sanctuaries have shrunk considerably so they don't have the ease of locations and movements where they are safe the way they were before. Clearly there is real progress being made. War is an ugly thing. It is always an ugly thing. It is not perfect, but great progress is being made."

Now, I am going to take the time before I introduce the gentlelady from Virginia and others that will come to read an opinion from a German journalist about Iraq that was in the Wall Street Journal last Monday and then submit it for the RECORD. Josef Joffee. He says:

"In contrast to President Bush's dark comparison between Iraq and the bloody aftermath of the Vietnam War last week, there is another, comforting

version of the Vietnam analogy that gained currency among policymakers and pundits. It goes something like this:

"After that last helicopter took off from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon 32 years ago, the nasty strategic consequences then predicted did not in fact materialize. The 'dominoes' did not fall. The Russians and Chinese did not take over, and America remained number one in Southeast Asia and in the world.

"But alas, cut-and-run from Iraq will not have the same serendipitous aftermath, because Iraq is not at all like Vietnam.

"Unlike Iraq, Vietnam was a peripheral arena of the Cold War. Strategic resources like oil were not at stake and neither were bases. In the global hierarchy of power, Vietnam was a pawn, not a pillar, and the decisive battle lines at the time were drawn in Europe, not in Southeast Asia.

'The Middle East, by contrast, was always the 'elephant path of history' as Israel's fabled defense minister. Moshe Dayan, put it. Legions of conquerors have marched up and down the Levant, and from Alexander's Macedonia all of the way to India. Other prominent visitors were Julius Caesar, Napoleon and the German Wehrmact.

"This is not just ancient history. Today, the great Middle East is a caldron even Macbeth's witches would be terrified to touch. The world's worst political and religious pathologies, combined with oil and gas, terrorism and nuclear ambitions.

"In short, unlike yesterday's Vietnam, the greater Middle East is the central strategic arena of the 21st century, as Europe was in the 20th century. This is where three continents— Europe, Asia and Africa—are joined. So let's take a moment to think about what would happen once that last Black Hawk took off from the Baghdad International Airport.

"Here is a short list. Iran advances to No. 1, completing its nuclear arms program undeterred and unhindered. America's cowed Sunni allies—Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the oil-rich Gulfiesare drawn into the Khomeinist orbit.

"You might ask: Wouldn't they converge into a mighty anti-Tehran alliance instead? Think again. The local players have never managed to establish a regional balance of power; it was always outsiders—first Britain, then U.S.—who chastened malfeasants and blocked anti-Western intruders like Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

"With the U.S. gone from Iraq, emboldened jihadi forces shift to Afghanistan and turn it again into a bastion of Terror International. Syria reclaims Lebanon, which it has always labeled as a part of 'Great Syria.' Hezbollah and Hamas, both funded and equipped by Tehran, resume their war against Israel. Russia, extruded from the Middle East by adroit Kissingerian diplomacy in the 1970s, rebuilds its

anti-Western alliances. In Iraq, the war escalates, unleashing even more torrents of refugees and provoking outside intervention, if not partition.

"Now, let's look beyond the region. The Europeans will be the first to revise their romantic notions of multipolarity, or world governance by committee. For worse than an overbearing, in-your-face America is a weakened and demoralized one. Shall Vladimir Putin's Russia acquire a controlling stake? This ruthlessly revisionist power wants revenge for its post-Gorbachev humiliation, not responsibility.

"China with its fabulous riches? The Middle Kingdom is still happily counting its currency surpluses as it pretties up for the Olympics, but watch its next play if the U.S. quits the highest stakes game in Iraq. The message from Beijing might well read: 'Move over America, the Western Pacific, as you call it is our lake '

"Europe? It is wealthy, populous and well-ordered. But strategic players, those 27 member-states of the E.U. are not. They cannot pacify the Middle East, stop the Iranian bomb, or keep Mr. Putin from wielding gas pipelines as tools of 'persuasion.' When the Europeans did wade into the fray, as in the Balkan wars of the 1990s, they let the U.S. Air Force go first.

"Now the upside. The U.S. may have spent piles of chips foolishly, but it is still the richest player at the global gaming table. In the Bush years, the U.S. may have squandered tons of political capital, but then the rest of the world is not exactly making up for the shortfall

'Nor has the U.S. become a 'dispensable nation.' That is the most remarkable truth in these trying times. Its enemies from al Qaeda to Iran-and its rivals from Russia to China—can disrupt and defy, but they cannot build and

"For all the damage to Washington's reputation, nothing of great import can be achieved without, let alone against, the United States. Can Moscow and Beijing bring peace to Palestine? Or mend a global financial system battered by the subprime crisis? Where are the central banks of Russia and China?

"The Bush presidency will soon be on the way out, but America is not. This truth has recently begun to sink in among the major Democratic contenders. Listen to Hillary Clinton who would leave 'residual forces' to fight terrorism. Or to Barack Obama, who would stay in Iraq with an as-yet-unspecified force. Even the most leftist of them all, John Edwards, would keep troops around to stop genocide in Iraq or to prevent violence from spilling over into the neighborhood. And no wonder, for it might be one of them who will have to deal with the bitter aftermath if the U.S. slinks out of Iraq.

"These realists have it right. Withdrawal cannot serve America's interests on the day after tomorrow. Friends and foes will ask: If this superpower doesn't care about the world's central and most dangerous stage, what will it care about?

"America's allies will look for insurance elsewhere. And the others will muse: If the police won't stay in the most critical of neighborhoods, why not break a few windows or just take over? The U.S. as 'Gulliver Unbound' may have stumbled during its 'unipolar' moment. But as giant with feet of clay, it will do worse and so will the rest of the world."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Aug. 27, 2007]

IF IRAQ FALLS

(By Josef Joffe)

In contrast to President Bush's dark comparison between Iraq and the bloody aftermath of the Vietnam War last week, there is another, comforting version of the Vietnam analogy that's gained currency among policy makers and pundits. It goes something like this:

After that last helicopter took off from the U.S. embassy in Saigon 32 years ago, the nasty strategic consequences then predicted did not in fact materialize. The "dominoes" did not fall, the Russians and Chinese did not take over, and America remained No. 1 in Southeast Asia and in the world.

But alas, cut-and-run from Iraq will not have the same serendipitous aftermath, because Iraq is not at all like Vietnam.

Unlike Iraq, Vietnam was a peripheral arena of the Cold War. Strategic resources like oil were not at stake, and neither were bases (OK, Moscow obtained access to Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay for a while). In the global hierarchy of power, Vietnam was a pawn, not a pillar, and the decisive battle lines at the time were drawn in Europe, not in Southeast Asia.

The Middle East, by contrast, was always the "elephant path of history," as Israel's fabled defense minister, Moshe Dayan, put it. Legions of conquerors have marched up and down the Levant, and from Alexander's Macedonia all the way to India. Other prominent visitors were Julius Caesar, Napoleon and the German Wehrmacht.

This is not just ancient history. Today, the Greater Middle East is a cauldron even Macbeth's witches would be terrified to touch. The world's worst political and religious pathologies combine with oil and gas, terrorism and nuclear ambitions.

In short, unlike yesterday's Vietnam, the Greater Middle East (including Turkey) is the central strategic arena of the 21st century, as Europe was in the 20th. This is where three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—are joined. So let's take a moment to think about what would happen once that last Blackhawk took off from Baghdad International.

Here is a short list. Iran advances to No. 1, completing its nuclear-arms program undeterred and unhindered.

America's cowed Sunni allies—Saudi-Arabia, Jordan, the oil-rich "Gulfies"—are drawn into the Khomeinist orbit.

You might ask: Wouldn't they converge in a mighty anti-Tehran alliance instead? Think again. The local players have never managed to establish a regional balance of power; it was always outsiders—first Britain, then the U.S.—who chastened the malfeasants and blocked anti-Western intruders like Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

With the U.S. gone from Iraq, emboldened jihadi forces shift to Afghanistan and turn it again into a bastion of Terror International. Syria reclaims Lebanon, which it has always

labeled as a part of "Great Syria." Hezbollah and Hamas, both funded and equipped by Tehran, resume their war against Israel. Russia, extruded from the Middle East by adroit Kissingerian diplomacy in the 1970s, rebuilds its anti-Western alliances. In Iraq, the war escalates, unleashing even more torrents of refugees and provoking outside intervention, if not partition.

Now, let's look beyond the region. The Europeans will be the first to revise their romantic notions of multipolarity, or world governance by committee. For worse than an overbearing, in-your-face America is a weakened and demoralized one. Shall Vladimir Putin's Russia acquire a controlling stake? This ruthlessly revisionist power wants revenge for its post-Gorbachev humiliation, not responsibility.

China with its fabulous riches? The Middle Kingdom is still happily counting its currency surpluses as it pretties up its act for the 2008 Olympics, but watch its next play if the U.S. quits the highest stakes game in Iraq. The message from Beijing might well read: "Move over America, the Western Pacific, as you call it, is our lake."

Europe? It is wealthy, populous and well-ordered. But strategic players those 27 member-states of the E.U. are not. They cannot pacify the Middle East, stop the Iranian bomb or keep Mr. Putin from wielding gas pipelines as tools of "persuasion." When the Europeans did wade into the fray, as in the Balkan wars of the 1990s, they let the U.S. Air Force go first.

Now to the upside. The U.S. may have spent piles of chips foolishly, but it is still the richest player at the global gaming table. In the Bush years, the U.S. may have squandered tons of political capital, but then the rest of the world is not exactly making up for the shortfall.

Nor has the U.S. become a "dispensable nation." That is the most remarkable truth in these trying times. Its enemies from al Qaeda to Iran—and its rivals from Russia to China—can disrupt and defy, but they cannot build and lead.

For all the damage to Washington's reputation, nothing of great import can be achieved without, let alone against, the U.S. Can Moscow and Beijing bring peace to Palestine? Or mend a global financial system battered by the subprime crisis? Where are the central banks of Russia and China?

The Bush presidency will soon be on the way out, but America is not. This truth has recently begun to sink in among the major Democratic contenders. Listen to Hillary Clinton, who would leave "residual forces" to fight terrorism. Or to Barack Obama, who would stay in Iraq with an as-yet-unspecified force. Even the most leftish of them all, John Edwards, would keep troops around to stop genocide in Iraq or to prevent violence from spilling over into the neighborhood. And no wonder, for it might be one of them who will have to deal with the bitter aftermath if the U.S. slinks out of Iraq.

These realists have it right. Withdrawal

These realists have it right. Withdrawal cannot serve America's interests on the day after tomorrow. Friends and foes will ask: If this superpower doesn't care about the world's central and most dangerous stage—what will it care about?

America's allies will look for insurance elsewhere. And the others will muse: If the police won't stay in this most critical of neighborhoods, why not break a few windows, or just take over? The U.S. as "Gulliver Unbound" may have stumbled during its "unipolar" moment. But as giant with feet of clay, it will do worse: and so will the rest of the world.

I think that says it pretty well from a German journalist about our commit-

ment in Iraq, what the stakes are, what will happen if we are to, as our Democratic colleague said, precipitously withdraw from Iraq.

We all want our troops home. I want my nephew home, but not until it is in our national interest for us to draw down troops on the timeline that secures our liberty and protects our people and our place in the world. And that is what is at stake.

I want to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE), a member of the Armed Services Committee. Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, first of

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Tennessee for having this hour this evening where we can come and tell you what our observations are about Iraq. And also, I would like to thank his family for the service of his nephew. I know he is in our thoughts and prayers for his safe return. I would also like to thank really the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have loved ones who are serving. I would like to thank the very brave men and women who are serving around the world for us today.

□ 1830

They truly understand the threat in the world, and they understand the consequences if we were to just pull out, and I think this is one of the most overwhelming things.

When you do make a trip like ours this year, it was my third trip into Iraq, and this year was my first trip into Afghanistan, but when you arrive in these Nations, the most overwhelming feeling immediately is that every single one of the young men and women that you're looking at serving in the U.S. military have volunteered to serve our Nation, and that is an incredible feeling.

The first thing that we did on our trip, it was very early August, we went into a neighborhood north of Baghdad. There was six of us on the trip, and we had the opportunity to meet with four Iraqi sheiks, two Sunni and two Shia. Now, like most Americans, I think I was of the impression that Sunni and Shia would never even speak to each other, much less work together to rid Iraq, their neighborhood, of the enemy. Well, they were in that room together and they sat Sunni, Shia, Sunni, Shia, as they talked to us about what they've done.

And the reason for what they've done, of course, is the incredible amount of violence that is taking place in Iraq against Iraqi civilians, executions, torture, and it's brought those sheiks into a position to join together for their neighborhood, for their region and, as they told us, for Iraq, that they did what they did for Iraq. They joined with our military. They worked together for 21/2 months, and when they were ready, combined with our military, these four sheiks and their citizens ridded that neighborhood of the enemy in only 4 days' time. They were so proud of themselves.

They told us repeatedly how their children could go out and play. Our military told us that this was the most dangerous street in northern Baghdad, the most IED attacks of all of Baghdad. They told us that they can go out and walk to the store now because of what's taken place.

What the incredible change that you're seeing in Iraq right now is that our military is helping local leaders to develop the capacity to govern at that very local level, the most important area, and to work on a regional level to bring that about.

Now, those sheiks are a little bit disappointed in their national government. I asked them about the Sunni members who had walked out of the government. Their answer is my favorite quote of the entire trip, and the quote was, they won't be reelected. I thought that's quick that they learned that.

They're extremely concerned about the involvement of Iran and Syria. Our military knows full well of the involvement of those two governments and weapons that are coming in and help that's being provided. They need services. Our military brought in the governor of Baghdad to look at their neighborhood and to see what could be done differently.

They also were very clear that they want their government to succeed, and they were very clear in telling us that they need our help and they want our help.

We also met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister Barham Shala, who is a Kurd. The Iraqi Government, and we don't ever talk about this, is set up, when your prime minister is the Shia, your two deputies, one's a Kurd and one's a Sunni. Your president is a Kurd, so your vice presidents are Sunni and Shia so that you bring in all three together to be able to have the involvement of all three sects within the country. It's not just one person telling you what to do.

Of course, the Deputy Prime Minister expressed a little bit of disappointment in how far the national government had come. There were meetings that were taking place even while we were there. He was very clear, and I thought this was very important, that he said their focus is to establish the institutions of government so that their government would continue, regardless of who was in power, and that no one would be able to just grab power and do something different in Iraq, but that they form a stable government just like here in the U.S.

When we had a shift in January from Republican control to Democrat control, there was no change in the way our government functions. Our courts functioned, and actually, Admiral Fallon, in addressing the Senate just recently, made the same types of comments, how important it is that we set up a rule of law, that we protect human rights.

So I was encouraged to hear him talking about that. He did stress that it was going to take time, and I asked him, because it's been very important here to us in America and our benchmarks, that there are pieces of legislation that we want the Iraqi Parliament to pass. And I asked him if it was true that he actually had the votes to pass that legislation. His answer surprised me. He said, Oh, yes. He said, I have 75 percent approval for the legislation. I reminded him that in America we pass major pieces of legislation with one vote.

But he looked at me and said something critically important. He said, if I pass this legislation with 75 percent, it means I've cut out the Sunni from the government. They would feel they had no power and they would feel they had no voice.

Now, just today in the Armed Services Committee, we received the GAO report on Iraq and the status of these 18 benchmarks. About six of the benchmarks deal with legislation that we'd like to see passed, and we failed on that, that that legislation has not passed, as we all know. But there was another benchmark that was stressed in it, that there be political involvement of minority parties and minority rights be protected. Now, we've passed on that benchmark, but I would say to the gentleman from Tennessee, to you, Mr. Speaker, that if we had passed that legislation against the wishes of an entire group of people, that we would have failed in meeting the benchmark that minority parties be included.

He talked to us about Anbar and about how it's been stabilized. Our trip was due to go there, and we weren't able to because we were detained here in Washington for that extra day. But he talked to us as well about the \$10 billion that's been appropriated by the Iraq Parliament for reconstruction efforts. That joins with the 60 countries that have joined with America in our reconstruction efforts there. There is \$200 million that's been appropriated to use just in Anbar province, and those contracts are now being let because the security level there will allow those construction projects to go forward.

I'd also like to add that we do have a policy in Iraq, and that's called Iraqis First. Whether you're an Iraqi company or you're an Iraqi civilian, that if you're able to be hired by us, that we want to hire Iraqi first.

The Deputy Prime Minister was clear that they are a country in transition, and he did caution us that they would not meet their benchmarks by September 15, but I would really want us to focus on not did we meet 18 benchmarks but what are the goals and what are the objectives and how do we develop a fully functioning Iraqi Government and how do those benchmarks play into that, how do they make responsible decisions there like I think they just did in not forcing legislation that would have cut an entire section of their country out.

I think that's critically important. We all support benchmarks, but we want those benchmarks to reflect achieving the goals that we've set, and we want to show where are those positive developments, and people are frustrated when they don't hear them, when American people don't hear of the progress that's being made or four sheiks coming together to stabilize their own region and asking that we not leave them and that we give them their help.

We did meet with General Petraeus. We met with Ambassador Crocker. We will receive their report on Monday. I know you have others who are here to talk. I just wanted to close by talking about the last thing we did that day.

We met with Iraqi security forces, and they were actually special ops. They were so impressive that I would have thought I was here in the U.S. watching special operation forces do a demonstration. Our military was very clear that they are very easy to train, and the good news that we haven't heard is that these Iraqi forces are able to train their new recruits that are coming in. I want you to know they were so proud of themselves.

Think of the risk to those men who are serving in Iraqi security forces. In our country, we know our men and women are in harm's way. That's painful for us as Americans, to have our men and women in harm's way defending this Nation. But in Iraq right now, anyone who joins the Iraqi security forces is in harm's way simply for joining, not in the threat of battle but simply for joining.

So I want to thank you for letting me tell you about them, tell you about what I saw on our trip to Iraq. It was critical for me to see Afghanistan for the first time because there's a lot of similarities in Afghanistan. We're doing the same thing.

We are looking at the local level now. We understand that that's the way we need to win this fight, but the change that's come about is like you have seen in Iraq, where local leaders join with us. Remember, they have to make a choice. Are they with us and their national government or are they with the Taliban in Afghanistan or with the al Qaeda in Iraq.

And they have to make the right choice, because if they make the wrong one, they're dead. And what's the message that we've sent to the world is that we're going to leave? How do you choose us if we're going to leave and you would be left there with an enemy? It's critical that we establish political, economic and security measures in Iraq so that this nation can function, can establish a government that will take them into the future and not just short term.

I did ask one question, and your article made me think about it, in armed services not long ago. We had witnesses come and talk about the National Intelligence Estimate, and my question to them was what would be the impact

on America if we were to leave, if we were to have done everything that we've done but if we were to leave before that government can govern itself, secure itself and develop itself economically? What would be our standing in the world? Would we be a paper tiger? What would our allies think of us? And would anyone ever trust us in the future?

The answer to me was we haven't studied that issue. Well, I think not only do we need to study the issue. We need to make sure that Iraq has made such progress that I've seen in my three trips. We need to make sure that these people aren't the victims of the violence that will take place. The Deputy Prime Minister pointed that out to us. He told us the consequences that would happen if we were to leave. He told us that Iraq is the heart of the Middle East and that everyone is watching what we we're doing.

So thank you for letting me join you tonight and thank you for the service

of your nephew.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to this great Nation of ours on the Armed Services Committee and for going and bringing us that unique insight.

As I prepare to yield to the gentleman from Georgia, let me say I think part of the equation for the Congress in a responsible, objective way in the days ahead is to remember that this is not all about Iraq. It is about the bigger picture with the global threat of the jihadists, the most radical elements of Islam, and the way that they are spreading their influence around the world outside even of the Middle East. I think we have to really understand that to know what the stakes are associated with the precipitous withdrawal or anything that is perceived to be a retreat.

These are real problems. It's easy to say, oh, George Bush got us into this war with flawed intelligence. It's also easy to forget that over half of the Democrats in the United States Senate voted to remove Saddam Hussein by force and almost half the Democrats in the House of Representatives voted to remove Saddam Hussein by force based on the very same knowledge and understanding that the executive branch had about what the threats were, and we made that decision as Americans.

It is really unfortunate today that decisions and responsibility for those decisions now end up being peeled off as partisan issues instead of, we do these things together, we stand together, we stand behind our troops together, we stand behind their mission together.

We had Members like RALPH HALL of Texas come back and say to a person the men and women in uniform told him while he was there that we should stay and finish what we started and not leave until we can successfully complete this mission. And you say, well, what is that and when will we know?

Objectively, you're getting that report and it's much more positive than it was, and the stakes for leaving are incredibly high.

If you don't believe the influence of the radical Islamists around the world, I would encourage you to read Mark Steyn's book, "America Alone," where he lays out what's happened in Europe and the influence with the global sharia, which is a call to Islamic law, and the intimidation and the threat around the world, or even this new book called "Alms for Jihad: Charity and Terrorism in the Islamic World, by J. Miller Burke. He wrote this book exposing the connection between the Saudi royal family and terrorism through these charities that they set up and funnel money.

It reminded me of the Oil-for-Food scandal at the United States where Saddam Hussein corrupted the United Nations.

□ 1845

All of the corruption that exists through this radical effort, because this book that lays all this out can't be bought today. It has vanished from all of the Amazons. It has vanished from the availability of Barnes & Noble to find the book. What happened to it?

Well, through intimidation and money, they have taken this information out of circulation so the people can't see these connections.

They literally tie him, this man, Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, to the charity that he set up to fund bin Laden with Saudi royal family money, and then when they published the book, it vanished. You can't get it. You can't go buy it.

Mark Steyn lays out, this is the kind of work that the radical Wahabi sect, the al Qaeda operatives, are doing in the world. They have infiltrated and corrupted, and we are like boiling frogs if we deny any longer how this threat is overtaking the free world. America Alone's premise is they've already got Europe and frankly Australia is really the only nation standing with us like they need to.

This is a growing global imminent threat. If we pull out, it will rapidly deteriorate in the world. Our credibility will be lost for generations. We may never regain it. Those are the stakes. That's bigger than Iraq. Iraq is one chapter in this long-term generational struggle for our freedom. The sooner we realize it, the better we are.

I went and spoke to kids in schools in August, and they asked the question about, well, Afghanistan and the Taliban attacked us, but Saddam Hussein in Iraq didn't attack us. Why did we go there?

The lesson of history is Germany didn't attack us, either. Japan attacked us. Germany didn't attack us. But did we ignore the threat of Nazi Germany? No. Our men stormed the beaches of Omaha and liberated Normandy and Omaha Beach, and liberated Europe, so that our way of life could be

preserved. Sometimes they forget that, but that's American leadership. This is very, very similar to that.

Are we going to exert it in a world in what this editorial calls the caldron, you know, of the worst political and religious pathology in the history of the world in the Middle East? This is the central stage. We cannot retreat from this without us really, really taking a global hit.

The next president is going to inherit the responsibility of doing this, of carrying this forward.

I want to yield to the statesman from Georgia, a physician, a healer, a man with a great heart but a strong back, also a member of the Armed Services Committee, Dr. PHIL GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Tennessee, Zach Wamp, for, first of all, conducting this special order hour, leadership hour on the Republican side, and for allowing me and my colleague and great friend from Virginia, Thelma Drake, for being part of that. Doug Lamborn, the gentleman from Colorado, I think, has joined us.

Mr. Speaker, I was on the trip with THELMA DRAKE from Virginia when we visited Iraq and Afghanistan, and I am not going to repeat everything that she said, but I want my colleagues to know that this was my fourth trip to Iraq, my first opportunity to go to Afghanistan.

But this was a necessity that I go this fourth time. I think some 40 or 50 Members of the Congress during the so-called August recess spent 5 to 7 days in the Middle East and the combat zone in 120-degree weather.

Those of us on the Armed Services Committee, I am sure, felt duty bound to do this, particularly as we approach the report from General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker that's going to be delivered to the House on next Monday, September 10.

I have been four times, but this was the most meaningful visit, because I came to a realization, really, actually, it emboldened my feeling that we need to give victory a chance. Again, I want to thank Zach Wamp, the gentleman from Tennessee, for the passion that he brings to this issue. I thought he was just an expert on energy, but he is also an expert on national defense, more important, the global war on terror, as he so passionately explains this issue.

I was on the floor last night during some of our special order time, 5-minute speeches and the two sides, the Democratic majority has an hour and the Republican minority has an hour. I heard one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, a gentleman from Maryland, talking about losing a soldier, a 22-year-old brave patriot in his district, and he talked with the mom and was trying to, of course, console her.

The gentleman said on the floor last night, you know, it was sort of ironic, the mom of the fallen soldier said, isn't it ironic, I am here planning my son's funeral and the Commander in Chief is planning a wedding.

That's not the kind of commentary that we need on the floor of this House to suggest that the Commander in Chief doesn't care, that he has got his head in the sand and that each and every one of these 3,700 or so KIAs and 18,000 of our best and bravest that have sustained, in some instances, massive injuries, if you don't think that the Commander in Chief goes to bed every night with this on his heart, then you are just flat wrong.

I think the gentleman, on more reflection, would agree with what I am saying. This President cares. This Commander in Chief cares. He wants to give victory a chance.

It's not a matter of staying the course and same old same old, the Iraq Study Group, the gentleman from Indiana, the long-serving distinguished Democrat, 37 years in this body, and Ambassador Baker, Secretary Baker, served under three Republican Presidents, you have got two people that made some suggestions. One of the main suggestions that they made was we need a surge, we need more troops, especially in and around Baghdad, and those four provinces, where all of the violence, most of the violence, 95 percent of it, is occurring. This is exactly what the President responded to.

What did we hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle? Oh, well, you know, too little, too late.

Yet, you know, 3 or 4 years ago it was, well, you're not putting enough troops in there to do the job, you didn't listen to General Shinseki, it's a constant pulling the rug out from under the combatant commanders, and we see 435 people that want to be Commander in Chief. It just doesn't work that way.

In the Democratic special hour last night, after we talked about our experience in Iraq and these recent trips, the team on the Democratic side said, you know, we can't afford to spend this money. We've almost spent \$1 trillion trying to win this global war on terror, and we need to be spending this money to repair bridges, to give more money to the gulf coast, to maybe even give more money than a 300 percent increase in the SCHIP program to cover every man, woman and child from cradle-to-grave with universal health care.

Even if I were for some of those things, I will tell you this, you spend that money on those things, and you don't protect our people from global terrorism, then you will see, in a New York minute, how quick that money would go down the toilet as these people blow up this infrastructure, just like they did 9/11, almost 6 years ago now, and killed 3,300, almost the same number, that we have lost in Iraq and Afghanistan over a 4-year period. They killed them within a period of 45 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. That reminds me, today, yet another terrorist plot coming out of Germany, preparing to attack our Air Force base in Germany and soft

targets of just public places in Germany where Americans are known to hang out was foiled, thankfully. The German authorities were on top of it.

That is a major, major terrorist attack again. We see this over and over again, thankfully, you know. God has spared us, our intelligence is working, we are listening. Because of FISA, we are able to listen to foreign terrorists talk to each other. We've taken the precautions.

Then I have this theory that they don't want to strike us right now because they don't want our country to pull back together again and be resolute against this threat, so that those things, combined, have kept our country secure and safe at home while we are fighting these insurgents and these terrorists in the Middle East.

We're going to be fighting them somewhere. If it's not in Iraq, it's going to be Somalia, Northern Africa. I can go through a list of the troubling places in the world where we're going to face these kinds of problems and activities, and there are 20 countries that are at risk around the world for bigtime terrorist actions like the Taliban came out of Afghanistan, and we can either basically stand against this threat today or face it globally and more at home tomorrow. That's not a threat. It's reality. In Germany today it was proven again they are trying to hit our targets wherever they are.

Mr. GINGREY. I am so glad the gentleman brought that up, because what he is talking about, and I commend to all my colleagues, read the article, these were three, in one case, I think, a citizen of Germany, maybe of Islamic descent, but a German citizen, and not only were they planning on attacking Frankfurt, where most people fly into when they go into Western Europe, certainly from this country, but also, and I know the gentleman is aware of this, their plan was to attack Ramstein Air Force Base and the Landstuhl European Army Medical Center where every one of these troops, our troops, that are injured so severely, and our great physicians on the battlefield are able to save their lives to get them through Ramstein Air Force Base to that Landstuhl Army Medical Center there just a few miles away, and that's what they were going to attack.

Mr. WAMP. The lowest of the low who would attack your wounded and injured.

Mr. GINGREY. The lowest of the low. Of course, I know we want to yield to our friend from Colorado, and we will hear from him in just a second, but as I conclude my remarks, I just want to say, and Mrs. Thelma Drake, the gentlewoman from Virginia mentioned this a little earlier, we had a report today in the House Armed Services Committee, a report that was requested by Congress in our last emergency supplemental, from the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, on these benchmarks, and the Comptroller General talked about the

progress. Really, he talked mainly about lack of progress, and it was ironic that even though several of those benchmarks, we had made some progress, he pretty much gave the Iraqi government a failing report card.

I think that is disappointing here, just a matter of a few days prior to General Petraeus' report.

He even suggested that while General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker are highly professional and we would get a professional report from them, we would not get an unbiased report. The only unbiased report was coming from him and from the Government Accountability Office.

I suggested to him, during that hearing, you know, you might be unbiased, but your ability to interpret what you see on the ground certainly militarily may not come even close to General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. So let's wait for the report, let's give victory a chance. That's what I want to say to all my colleagues. Let's button our lips for the rest of this week, and let's see what the report says.

I would suggest that the President is going to listen to General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, and I would suggest that yes, indeed, the Iraqi government is making progress, that they are not making as fast of progress as we would hope, but we would continue to put pressure on them, but let's give victory a chance.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman for that commentary, especially the update on the hearing today from the GAO and Mr. Walker.

I will be a little more pointed to tell you as the ranking member of the appropriations subcommittee that funds the GAO, and funds Mr. Walker's organization, that unfortunately many times, whether it is government spending or oversight in Iraq, a lot of what happens in his office revolves around him and not us.

□ 1900

It is all about him, and again today, it's all about him. He's the only one that somehow can be unbiased, and he's the only one that can do this. And there's a little kingdom over at the GAO and he's the king. And we need to remember that and put it in perspective this week before we hear from the absolute expert on counterinsurgency in modern world history, David Petraeus, the best we can put in charge. He's the best we can offer to this situation. And let's listen to him objectively and not get caught up in an ego matter, frankly, involving Mr. Walker

And I yield to the gentleman from Colorado, a distinguished member of our Veterans' Affairs Committee, a relatively new Member, but a very experienced and seasoned Member, Doug LAMBORN.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, like many of my House colleagues, I traveled with a Congressional delegation to Iraq during the August recess, and I rise now to speak about the successes that I saw and experienced firsthand while in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, the members of our armed services are working tirelessly each day and night in Iraq to rebuild this country and to ensure our national security. While in Iraq, I had an opportunity in Fallujah to meet with marines from Colorado Springs who were upbeat about the progress in Iraq and were certain that their accomplishments during the surge had produced a truly positive result. They were also equally concerned that people at home in the United States did not understand how successful they have been.

After my visit to Iraq, I am pleased to say that I am even more sure than ever that their mission has not been in vain. They truly are making a difference for the Iraqi people and for the communities in which these people live

During our visit, we met with GEN David Petraeus who had many positive things to say about the progress that has been made since the surge began. For instance, he mentioned the elimination of safe havens for militia forces and al Qaeda, continued progress in Anbar province, progress in the operation and training of the Iraqi Army and encouraging signs of tactical successes in Baghdad. I look forward, like my colleagues here who've just spoken, to reading General Petraeus' report on the surge with great scrutiny when it is released this month.

I'm also delighted to hear that some of my Democratic colleagues have realized and acknowledged that the surge is working. I plan to continue to work with all of my colleagues, as well as the military and the administration, to ensure that the sacrifice our brave men and women are making in Iraq is not abandoned before the mission is completed.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman, and at this time I want to yield to the ranking member of the Oversight Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Missouri, TODD AKIN.

Mr. AKIN. It's a pleasure to be able to join our discussion tonight on the subject of Iraq. I approach the subject this evening from several perspectives; one, as a father of a marine who is now a captain who has been in Iraq; also as someone who has visited Iraq a number of times myself, but particularly, and more recently, as the ranking Republican on the Oversight Committee of the Armed Services Committee. That is a committee that we have been hearing now, for quite a number of weeks, of witnesses, Republicans, Democrats, all kinds of different positions and people with ideas that are supposedly experts about what we should be doing in Iraa.

Now, one of the things that has jumped out, after having to sit through hours and hours and hours of testimony, is a certain pattern. Every single witness, conservative, liberal, Re-

publican, wacko one way, strange the other way, anybody, every single one of them, there were two things that they always said, and that was, the first one was, if we pull out rapidly, it will be, first of all, a huge blood bath of Iraqis killing Iraqis. We're talking about millions of people dying, which will, of course, all be reviewed in all the gory detail on the media. And second of all, the region will become extremely unstable. Both of those, regardless of who they were, political party, anything else, those were the two common themes.

And what emerged after weeks and weeks of listening to all these experts was, there is no gracious, easy way for us to try and tuck our tail between our legs and quit. We're like the bear that's going through the woods. We're more than halfway there.

The most logical, the most common sense, the most economic, the least loss of life course for us is to proceed forward logically and win this war. And there is even reason to believe that we can.

And the strategy is becoming more and more obvious as to how that has to happen. The first basic principle is that our troops are doing a very good job in Iraq. The second basic principle is that we've fallen into this sort of belt line, beltway mentality thinking that America's greatness all came out of Washington, DC and therefore the problems have to be solved in Baghdad. and that's just wrong. The political solution in Baghdad is not working properly. Where we are having success is the very way that America was built 300 years ago, and it's being built in local communities and local cities, local towns and various states as they built this great Nation and the same way. That's what's happening over in Iraq.

We are having very good success on the local level working with local sheiks, giving them a sense that it's their country, they can shape it, and what we need to be doing is aggressively giving those local governments authority and limiting the Baghdad authority to certain very specific items. We call that federalism in this country, and that's where we need to be going. We can win this, and it is the most inexpensive, the lowest loss of life and the very most positive results we can expect by just using the same principles that we found that built America. So I think that's where we need to be going.

The Democrats are wrong. You can't pass a constitutional amendment that says everybody's going to get along with each other. Even if you put a gun to the head of the Iraqi Baghdad Government, they couldn't do that. They couldn't succeed in that.

They're wrong in being against the surge. The surge is proving to be effective. It is helping us to build local governments. And they're wrong in the sense that everything is lost and we ought to quit. That's not true, and

none of the witnesses suggested that it's wise for us to pull out precipitously.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me some time, and I appreciate the comments of my colleagues that understand the importance of this and understand terrorism.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman from Missouri and his distinguished leadership as the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Let me say, before introducing the gentleman from Texas, one of the biggest changes that I see, not just in Iraq, but globally, is that finally moderate Muslims are standing up against the radicals. We're seeing that in country, we're seeing that in other parts of the world. Up until a few months ago when they saw American resolve coming forward, they literally were so afraid and intimidated and harassed, and the radicals were seizing the moment.

Now, finally, and let me tell you, because of the sheer numbers, if we're ever going to really permanently throw this threat back, the moderate people in Islam have to lead and help us, and that's beginning to happen.

A gentleman who's been to Iraq six times, Dr. Burgess from Texas, another physician, a healer, a member of the Commerce Committee with extraordinary perspective from six separate visits to Iraq in country. I yield him such time as he may consume, hoping to get the other gentleman from Texas in at some point in the next 7 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. And I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

Indeed, I did take my sixth trip to Iraq in July, a weekend trip. And believe it or not, it is possible to make a weekend trip to Baghdad.

I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I was concerned. The 10 months prior to my going, we've had just a litany of one bad story after another come out of Iraq, and I was concerned about what I was going to find.

The story is a mixed story. I suspect next week when we do hear the report from General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, we'll get a mixed report.

But I've just got to tell you, it was a vastly different condition on the ground that I saw than what I had been led to believe I would encounter with reading the stories in the paper.

Now, just over a year ago I was there. There's a lot that's changed in Iraq. There's a lot that's changed here at home since that year's time. Concerned about what I would find, and again, made the trip over a relatively condensed time frame, we left for Baghdad really early in the morning out of Kuwait City on a C-130.

And Mr. Speaker, you always hear people criticize us on these trips. They say, well, you just saw what they wanted you to see. They just trotted out the dog-and-pony show for you and you hought it.

But the reality is you get on a C-130, 3 or 4 or in the morning, it's already 90,

95 degrees. You're put in the back of a C-130 with troops being moved into one theater or another. And they don't pick the guys that happen to show up at the airport that morning. You go with whoever is going in or out of the country.

Now, when you're on the plane, it's just too noisy and hot and dark to talk. But as the plane landed when we got to Baghdad and they bring the engines down and you can actually hear again, the soldiers that were around became anxious to talk to me when they found out who I was and why I was there.

Most of them, it was their second or third rotation. Their deployments had been extended to 15 months, and most of the guys that were on that plane wouldn't see home again for almost a year.

Since February, there's been a big change in how they do their job. They're placed alongside Iraqi soldiers in smaller groups, both in Baghdad and out in the provinces, and they're no longer attached to this larger and more protected military base. And clearly, they're seeing a greater amount of activity and, to a large degree, that concerned them.

The fellow that was just right across from me I actually spoke with in some depth, and he'd been reading a book all during this hot plane ride for 2 hours from Kuwait City into Baghdad.

He obviously voiced a concern. He wondered if the General Officer Corps even knew what they were up to, even knew what they were doing. He wondered if they knew what they were up against. He did complain about the long hours. He complained about the heat. He complained about being separated from his family.

Mr. Speaker, he'd been reading a book intently while we were on the plane. And I asked him about this. I said, What book are you reading? And he said it was a book about philosophy. So I naturally assumed that at the end of his deployment he'd be coming home to perhaps finish school, or maybe he had a job waiting for him, and I asked him about this. And he looked at me very strangely and said, I just signed up for five more years.

You know, it's that kind of ambiguity, it's that kind of enigma that confronts you when you're in Iraq. Things just don't add up the way you think that they might.

Now, we got off that plane and we all went our separate ways. We were taken into the town of Ramadi. And a year ago, there would have been no way to go to Ramadi. We visited with the mayor.

And again, as Mr. AKIN just alluded to, the good news story coming of out of Iraq is the building up of those institutions of local government just like we have here in this country, county governments, city governments that are doing the really hard work. They're doing reconciliation at the city level, at the provincial level. If it takes the central government a while longer to

catch up with them, I've got a lot of hope based on what I saw on the ground.

But what really gives me hope is what I saw in the market in Ramadi. Look at the faces on these two young guys. We were just out there walking in the market just in an area that a year ago it had been so dangerous no one in their right mind would have taken us there.

Let me just show you this other picture that gives you some idea of the types of thing for sale in the market. Again, it looks like a typical marketplace anywhere you'd find in the Middle East, Jordan or Saudi Arabia. A lot of stuff for sale. I don't know where the stuff comes from, but a lot of stuff for sale. And again, clearly the people who were there did not look to be particularly stressed or aggrieved. They looked half curious and happy to see us. In fact, the kids were starting school in a couple of weeks and would come up to us and ask us for pens and quarters. Apparently our military had given them a good deal of coaching on the kinds of things you can get from a codel as it walks through town.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude here and leave the remaining time to my friend from Texas. I will say I do believe it is in America's interest that we finish the job. The next 30 years will look starkly different if we're successful versus if we're a failure.

I will yield back to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. I'd like to yield our final minute to Mr. Hensarling of Texas to

Mr. HENSARLING. I certainly thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for leading this hour. I want to thank the other members of the Republican Study Committee, the House's conservative caucus, for lending their voice here.

In the remaining time, I just want to make a couple of points, and that is, we see every night the cost of fighting this war, and it is a heavy cost. It's a heavy cost in terms of money and, much more importantly, lives. But we need to again remember the cost of losing this war and what that could mean and how serious the threat is.

I was home during the August recess, got to spend time not only with my wife and children, but with my parents. My mother reminded me of something that she said from time to time, and that is, sometimes life is full of lousy options. And yes, fighting this war is costly. But losing this war could be even costlier if Iraq becomes what Afghanistan once was, under the Taliban, a breeding ground, a training ground for terrorists that are bent on hurting our country.

And we have to remember these are people who have said they have the right to kill 4 million Americans. Two million of them are children and two of those 2 million are mine. We have to remember what the cost of defeat is.

So we finally have signs for cautious optimism. We all need to have an open mind when the report comes in.

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MOURNING THE PASSING OF THE LATE JENNIFER DUNN, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIRES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues and friends and the entire State of Washington in mourning the loss of former Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn. She was my predecessor here in the House of Representatives, represented the Eighth District of Washington State. I'm shocked and saddened by the news of her death today, and my condolences go out to the family: her husband, Keith; her children, Bryant, Reagan, and Angus; their wives; and the grandchildren, who meant so much to her.

And today as we were on the floor voting, Mr. Speaker, the news was presented to the Members of this body by a good friend, a longtime friend of hers, Doc Hastings is his nickname, from Central Washington. He had known Jennifer for over 30 years. And as Doc Hastings announced the news of her unexpected death, you could hear the sadness. You could hear the sadness. You could hear the sadness. You could hear the gasp as the air went out of this room.

Jennifer Dunn served this House for 12 years. She was a well-respected Member of this body. She was in leadership in the Republican Party, one of the first females in leadership in this House. She was one of those Members who reached across the aisle; who worked with all; who had a dedicated, compassionate drive to represent the people of the Eighth District. She served with passion and the heart of a servant.

I first met Jennifer Dunn back in 1997 as I became the first elected sheriff in King County, Seattle, Washington. And I had the opportunity to travel back and forth between Washington State and Washington, D.C. to meet with our delegation. And Jennifer Dunn was always so gracious in allowing me time as the sheriff to come in and present the issues that were facing us in King County law enforcement.

She was very proud of the fact that she helped start the school resource officer program with grant funds. She was very proud of the fact that she helped acquire funding for the so important fight against methamphetamines that really are the scourge of this Nation today. She helped plant the seed of an effort in Washington State that still goes on today in the form of the Washington State Meth Initiative, people meeting today, deciding how to spend the money the Federal Government still provides as a result of her efforts in fighting the deadly addiction that meth causes in our communities.

But one of the things that she was most proud of was her effort in passing legislation that led to the Amber Alert system that we have throughout this Nation that, as everyone knows across this country, has saved many lives, lives of our children, our most vulnerable of citizens and victims.

So I am so honored and so proud to be the person who has been given the privilege to follow in such a great lady's footsteps.

Jennifer Dunn, we will all miss you. Our prayers and thoughts go with the family.

AMERICAN PATENT LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, let me just note for my colleague who just finished his very, very appropriate remarks concerning the passing of Jennifer Dunn, I have three children at home, little Tristen and Anika and Christian; and as a parent, I am very grateful to Jennifer Dunn for the leadership that she provided in helping make our country safer for our children, the children that we all love so much.

And when we talk about the future and I think about my children, we have to think that whatever we do here, we are creating a better world, and it is a better world for our children because they are going to be around a lot longer than we are.

Well, Mr. Speaker, on Friday the House will consider legislation that will have a huge impact on the well-being of the American people and, yes, the well-being of America's children as they get older. Yet this bill will have a great deal to do with whether or not our children have good jobs and live in a secure country.

This bill is receiving very little attention. Very powerful interest groups are trying to sneak this one by us, and if they succeed, they will be enriched and the American people will be worse off.

So what's new? Well, what's new is that this special interest foray is not aimed at just adding an earmark or changing a clause in the tax law to help a specific company. It is a maneuver to dramatically diminish a constitutionally protected right that has served our Nation well. It is a fundamental change in a system that has been in place since our country's founding. That is a lot different than the special interest forays in the past just aimed at changing little elements of the law for their own benefit.

We are talking about fundamentally altering America's patent system. Now, if H.R. 1908, the bill in question, passes, there will be tremendous negative long-term consequences not just for America's inventors but for the country.

Now, patent law is thought to be so complicated and so esoteric that most people tune out once they realize that that is the subject of a discussion. We have probably lost people right now who are reading the Congressional RECORD or watching C-SPAN or our colleagues who are watching this from their offices. But the technology that we are talking about is vitally important to the well-being of our country. Patent law is not so complicated and esoteric because it is that vital to the well-being of our country. Our technological genius and the laws protecting and promoting that genius have been at the heart of America's success as a Nation.

America's technological edge has made American workers competitive with low-priced laborers overseas. It has provided the American people with the highest standard of living in the world, and it enabled our country to sail safely through the troubled waters of world wars and international threats. It is American technology that has made all the difference for our country's security and our people's quality of life.

Protecting individual rights, even for the little guy, has been the hallmark of our Nation. Patent rights, the right to one's own creation, which is what we are talking about when we talk about patent rights, have been considered a fundamental part of our system since our country's founding. In fact, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and others of our Founding Fathers were not the only people who believed in freedom and democracy. They believed in technology and progress.

Visit Monticello and see what Thomas Jefferson did with his time after he penned the words to the Declaration of Independence and after he served as President of the United States. He went back to Monticello and spent his time inventing gadgets and pieces of equipment that would lift the burden from the shoulders of labor. And, by the way, Jefferson was America's first Patent Commissioner.

And then there is Ben Franklin, the inventor of the bifocal and the potbellied stove. Before Benjamin Franklin people could only heat themselves at a fireplace and project heat in a room only from a fireplace. And Benjamin Franklin invented the potbellied stove, which started the whole concept of modern heating. This grand old man, who was present at the Declaration of Independence and the writing of our Constitution, once lamented his own death not by talking about the fear of the unknown and dying but by lamenting that he would not be able to see the great human progress that was bound to happen, the technological advances that would be the byproduct of a free people in the United States of America.

Our Founding Fathers believed that with freedom and with technology, we could increase the standard of living of all our people, not just the elite. Our founders were visionaries, not just about political structures but about a way of life for ordinary people and the future of humankind. Those patriots who laid the foundation of our country wrote into the Constitution a provision they firmly believed was a prerequisite to progress and freedom.

Now, last night after I gave a similar speech on the floor, a teacher, a socalled teacher of history, called my office to complain, "There is nothing about copyrights or patents in our Constitution." I don't know how long he has been a teacher. He said he has been teaching 20 years. But my staff member took out a copy of the Constitution and read to him article I, section 8 of the Constitution, which states in part: "Congress shall have the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." They held the right of owning one's ideas and creations and inventions as equal to the rights of speech, religion, and assembly. In fact, in the body of the Constitution before the Bill of Rights, the word "right" is only used in reference to patents and copyrights. So that shows you the priority that our Founding Fathers placed on the technological development that would create the dream of America that they felt that they were establishing here on this continent.

In short, we have had the strongest patent protection in the world, and that is why in the history of mankind there has never been a more innovative and creative people. And it has been no accident that Americans are the world's great inventors, scientists, and technologists. No, it is not just the diversity of our people, but diversity certainly plays a role and we can be proud of that and it has contributed to our capabilities. It wasn't just our natural resources, although we were blessed with vast territory and natural resources. Our innovation and progress can be traced to our law from the very beginning. It was the intent of those who wrote these protections into our fundamental law, into the Constitution in those earliest days of our Republic, and it was their vision of optimism that motivated them to write this into the law. Our history is filled with stories of technological achievement that flowed from the fact that we had established a country that thought that the rights of ownership of what you create is just as important as your right to speak or the right to worship God as you so choose.

We found people who emerged among us, Eli Whitney, for example, who not only invented the cotton gin but who invented the interchangeable parts for manufacturing. This revolutionized industrial production and dramatically uplifted the well-being of millions of people and, yes, people who were yet to be born

Cyrus McCormick invented the reaper. Before that the food supply for our

people was limited. People went to bed hungry, large numbers. Cyrus McCormick invented a reaper that made sure that every person would have bread enough to eat, that children would be fed.

Samuel Morse invented the telegraph, which eventually led, of course, to the telephone and revolutionized a whole idea of communications throughout the world. Thomas Edison, the light bulb and so many other inventions.

Interestingly, black Americans were prolific inventors even at times when they were terribly discriminated against because patent law was one law that was justly applied to them for the most part, although there were issues of discrimination even in that area. But compared to the other areas where thev were totally discriminated against, there was some leeway in our society. And black inventors emerged, as is predictable, because that was their avenue to rise up. Men like Jan Matzeliger, who invented a machine that was used in shoe manufacturing that dramatically changed the shoe industry to the point that the average person after Matzeliger's invention could afford to have more than one pair of shoes in his life.

□ 1930

Before that they were so expensive, people had one pair of shoes that they repaired for the rest of their lives.

George Washington Carver, another great black inventor, a great scholar, a world-respected scientist, and so many more like him. We are proud that our history advanced technologies because we know, as Americans, as we have always known, that through our country's history, that the inventions that we're talking about produced more wealth with less labor, thus increased the standard of living of all people and the opportunity for all people who are part of our country's brotherhood and sisterhood to share in the benefits, in the fruits of this free society.

And yes, we have had problems in the past and there was discrimination against black Americans, obviously. Slavery was a blight on our system, a sin. But as we have tried to produce more wealth, and the more wealth that has been produced and the more opportunity that's been available, the easier it's been for our society to try to correct those terrible crimes and sins of the past. And black Americans have done their share, more than their share, in producing these inventions that have helped our country.

By and large, the inventors were not part of large corporate structures. They were, by and large, little guys, people who didn't have vast companies behind them, which leads us, of course, to the Wright brothers.

We remember the Wright brothers, men with little education that worked in a bicycle shop. They owned a bicycle shop and ended up inventing something a little more than 100 years ago that

they were told was impossible to invent, impossible to build by the experts. They had no huge corporate structures behind them, so thus they didn't have a board of directors that prohibited them from their research or directed them in a way that would have prevented them from being successful. They went forward, they invested their time, and they invested their limited resources. And they changed the future of humankind forever as they took mankind's feet off the ground and put us on the road to the heavens. The patent issued to the Wright brothers is perhaps one of the most significant documents in the history of all mankind.

Let us understand that it was not raw muscle nor was it just hard work that built our country. People work hard all over the world and live in abject poverty. It is not our vast territory or natural resources. It was, instead, our ingenuity, our intelligence, and yes, the legal system that was established to protect that ingenuity and the intelligence and the creativity of

our people.

We treated intellectual property, the creation of new technologies, as we treated property and personal rights and political rights. They were held in the same esteem in the United States of America. And that is what America is all about, that every person's rights were to be respected and protected. As I say, we didn't always live up to that dream, but it was our standard. We held those high standards and it served us well. Now we have people trying to undermine those standards for personal gain.

Today we face a great historic challenge, and this challenge comes exactly at a time when our country faces economic threats from abroad as never before. We must prevail over our economic competitors. They are at war with the well-being of the American people. We must win, or our country and our people will lose. My children, Anika, Tristen and Christian, they will lose. Your children, all of our children will have worse lives in the future if we lose this battle, this economic battle that we are fighting today. Yes, our people will suffer.

Future generations could well see their standard of living decline, the opportunity of their young people vanish, as well as the safety and strength of our country, which all leads us to the legislation that will be considered on Friday. Very powerful corporate interests, mainly billionaires in the electronics industry and the financial industry, are on the verge of fundamentally changing the U.S. patent system, and it will have dire consequences for the American people. So our colleagues need to pay attention.

Let us be clear and specific; the legislation in question, H.R. 1908, will dramatically weaken the patent rights of ordinary Americans and make us even more vulnerable to the outright theft of American-made technology and innovative ideas.

The purpose of the legislation is to weaken the patent system. Those people in the electronics industry and the financial industry do not want to pay royalties; they do not want to be hampered by watching out for and respecting the ownership rights of our inventors anymore.

This legislation is a slow-motion destruction of the patent system. No one will be candid enough to admit it, but the real reason for this and past forays against the patent system is aimed at the destruction of the system; it is not to make it better. No one is going to admit it. They're going to say they're here trying to reform the system. It is not aimed at that; it is aimed at destroying the system. The word "reform" is being used as a cover just as it was a cover in the immigration battle. We all remember that. People talked about comprehensive immigration because the real purpose, as we all know, was amnesty in that bill that was making its way through Congress. Everybody knows that. And amnesty would have brought tens of millions more here, at least that was debatable. Well, we should have talked about it and debated that issue. Instead, we heard about comprehensive reform as if it was going to solve a problem and make the immigration influx into our country, bring it under control. No. The purpose of that bill was amnesty.

When they talk about reform of our patent system, what they're really talking about is destroying the patent system and weakening its protection. They couldn't pass it otherwise.

There are some real problems that need to be solved with our patent system. Unfortunately, the legislation making its way through the system does not correct the problems, just as the comprehensive amnesty bill or comprehensive immigration bill didn't solve the problems. The problems are being used as an excuse to act. But the proposed changes are aimed at a totally different and indefensible goal. It is a power grab, a classic power grab where we are not having an honest debate, an honest exchange of ideas with the American people.

So we readily admit, those of us who are in opposition to the bill that will come to the floor Friday, H.R. 1908, we admit that we need patent legislation, legislation that speeds the examination and issuance of patents, helps the process, the examination process and the issuance process, provides training and compensation for patent examiners. We need legislation that does just that. We need legislation that will protect our inventors against theft, especially against foreign theft, where our own creative genius of our people is being taken and stolen by foreigners and then put into their manufacturing to outdo the United States, to put us out of business; our own creative genius used against us. Yes, we need to fix these problems with the patent.

The bill has this goal, and supposedly they talk about it. And if that was the

goal, it would be welcomed. Well, it also has been a straw man to justify this revolutionary altering of our patent system, of course. What we need, of course, is to correct the problems in the current system, not to destroy the system.

This comprehensive bill that we face, interestingly enough, is similar to a bill that came up 10 years ago that we managed, with public outcry, just like the outcry that stopped the immigration bill in the Senate. We stopped a bill like this 10 years ago. I called it the "Steal American Technologies Act." Well, the same group of people, the same interest group that tried to push that is back. And so if you take a look at this bill, we might call it the "Steal American Technologies Act Part 2."

So just what does H.R. 1908 do? First and foremost, it is designed, as I say, to weaken the patent protection of American inventors. So we support real reforms, but the proposed changes in H.R. 1908 will cause the collapse of the patent system that has sustained America for the past 200 years.

The negative impact of the totality of this bill is reflected in the wide spectrum of opposition who are now mobilizing against it.

For the RECORD, I would submit this list of those who are opposing H.R. 1908, and I would ask this to be included in the RECORD at this point.

ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPANIES WHICH HAVE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO PATENT LEGISLATION (H.R. 1908)

Organizations and Companies Raising Objections to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007: 3M, Abbott, Accelerated Technologies, Inc., Acorn Cardiovascular Inc., Adams Capital Management, Adroit Medical Systems, Inc., AdvaMed, Advanced Diamond Technologies, Inc., Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., Advanced Neuromodulation Systems, Inc., Aero-Marine Company, AFL-CIO, African American Republican Leadership Council, AIPLA—American Intellectual Property Law Association.

Liquide, Air Products, NanoSolutions, Inc., ALIO Industries, Allergan, Inc., Almyra, Inc., AmberWave Systems Corporation, American Conservative Union, American Intellectual property Law, Association (AIPLA), American Seed Trade, Americans for Sovereignty.

Americans for the Preservation of Liberty, Amylin Pharmaceuticals, AngioDynamics, Inc., Applied Medical, Applied Nanotech, Inc., Argentis Pharmaceuticals, LLC, Arizona BioIndustry Association, ARYx Therapeutics, Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

Asthmatx, Inc., AstraZeneca, Aware, Inc., Baxa Corporation, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, BayBio, Beckman Coulter, BIO-Biotechnology Industry Organization, BioCardia, Inc., BIOCOM, Biogen Idec, Biomedical Association, BioOhio, Bioscience Institute, Biotechnology Council of New Jer-

Blacks for Economic Security Trust Fund, BlazeTech Corporation, Boston Scientific, Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc., Bristol-Squibb, BuzzLogic, California Healthcare Institute, California Healthcare Institute (The), Canopy Ventures, Carbide Derivative Technologies, Cardiac Concepts, Inc., CardioDynamics, Cargill, Inc., Cassie-

Shipherd Group (The), Caterpillar, Celgene Corporation, Cell Genesys, Inc., Center 7, Inc., Center for Small Business and the Environment, Centre for Security Policy, Cephalon, CheckFree, Christian Coalition of America.

Cincinnati Sub-Zero Products, Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, Coalitions for America, CogniTek Management Systems, Inc., Colorado Bioscience Association, Conceptus, Inc., CONNECT, Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Cornell University, Corning, Coronis Medical Ventures, Council for America, CropLife America, Cryptography Research, Cummins-Allison Corporation.

Cummins Inc., CVRx Inc., Dais Analytic Corporation, Dartmouth Regional Technology Center, Inc., Declaration Alliance, Deltanoid Pharmaceuticals, Digimarc Corporation, DirectPointe, Dow Chemical Company, Dupont, Dura-Line Corporation, Dynatronics Co., Eagle Forum, Eastman Chemical Company, Economic Development Center, Edwards Lifesciences, Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Electronics for Imaging, Eli Lilly and Company, Ellman Innovations LLC, Enterprise Partners Venture Capital, Evalve, Inc.

Exxon Mobile Corporation, Fallbrook Technologies Inc., FarSounder, Inc. Foot-

Gambro BCT, General Electric, Genomic Health, Inc., Gen-Probe Incorporated, Genzyme, Georgia Biomedical Partnership, Glacier Cross, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline, Glenview State Bank, Hawaii Science & Technology Council, HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, HeartWare, Inc., Helius, Inc., Henkel Corporation, Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc.

iBIO, Imago Scientific Instruments, Impulse Dynamics (USA), Inc., Indiana Health Industry Forum, Indiana University, Innovation Alliance, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)-USA, Inter-Digital Communications Corporation, Intermolecular, Inc., International Association of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), Invitrogen Corporation, Iowa Biotechnology Association, ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Johnson & Johnson, KansasBio, Leadership Institute, Let Freedom Ring, Life Science Alley, LITMUS, LLC.

LSI Corporation, Lux Capital Management, Luxul Corporation, Maryland Taxpayers' Association.

Masimo Corporation, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council, MassMEDIC, Maxygen Inc., MDMA-Medical Device Manufacturer's Association, Medical College of Wisconsin, MedImmune, Inc., Medtronic, Merck, Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc., Metabolex, Inc., Metacure (USA), Inc., MGI Pharma Inc., MichBio, Michigan Small Tech Association, Michigan State University, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Milliken & Company, Mohr, Davidow Ventures, Monsanto Company, Motorola.

NAM-National Association of Manufacturers, NanoBioMagnetics, Inc. (NBMI), NanoBusiness Alliance, NanoInk, Inc., Inc., Nanomix, NanoIntegris. Nanophase Technologies, NanoProducts Corporation, Nanosys, Inc., Nantero, Inc., National Center for Public Policy Research, Nektar Therapeutics, Neoconix, Inc., Neuro Resource Group (NRG), Neuronetics, Inc., NeuroPace, New England Innovation Alliance, New Hampshire Biotechnology Council, New Hampshire Department of Economic Development, New Mexico Biotechnical and Biomedical Association, New York Biotechnology Association.

Norseman Group, North Carolina Biosciences Organization, North Carolina State University, North Dakota State University, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Northwestern University, Novartis, Novartis Cor-Novasys poration. Medical NovoNordisk, NUCRYST Pharmaceuticals, Inc. NuVasive, Inc., Nuvelo, Inc., Ohio State University, OpenCEL, LLC.

Palmetto Biotechnology Alliance, Patent Café.com, Inc., Patent Office Professional Association, Pennsylvania Bio, Pennsylvania State University, PepsiCo, Inc., Pfizer, PhRMA—Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Physical Sciences Inc., PointeCast Corporation, Power Innovations International, PowerMetal nologies, Inc., Preformed Line Products, Procter & Gamble, Professional Inventors' Alliance, ProRhythm, Inc., Purdue University, Pure Plushy Inc., QUALCOMM Inc.

QuantumSphere, Inc., QuesTek Innovations LLC, Radiant Medical, Inc., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Research Triangle Park, NC, Retractable Technologies, Inc., RightMarch.com, S & C Electric Company. Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., SanDisk Corporation, Biosciences. Sangamo Inc.. Semprius, Inc., Small Business Association of Michigan—Economic Development Center. Small Business Exporters Association of the United States

Small Business Technology Council, Smart Romb Interactive, Smile Reminder. SmoothShapes, Inc., Solera Networks, South Dakota Biotech Association, Southern California Biomedical Council, Spiration, Inc., St. Louis University, Standup Bed Company (The), State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, Stella Group, Ltd., StemCells, SurgiQuest,

Symyx Technologies, Inc., Tech Council of Maryland/MdBio, Technology Patents & Licensing, Tennessee Biotechnology Associa-Tessera, Inc., Texas A&M, Texas Healthcare, Texas Instruments, Three Arch

United Technologies, University of California System, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of New Hampshire, University of North Carolina System, University of Rochester, University of Utah, University of Wisconsin-Madison, US Business and Industry Council, US Council for International Business.

USGI Medical, USW-United Steelworkers, Vanderbilt University and Medical Center, Virent Energy Systems, Inc., Virginia Biotechnology Association, Visidyne, Inc., VisionCare Opthamalogic Technologies, Inc., Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association, Washington University, WaveRx, Inc.

Wayne State University, Wescor, Inc., Weyerhaeuser, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association, Wyeth.

This list includes biotech industries, the pharmaceutical industry, small businesses, labor unions, universities, patent examiners, and of course inventors. And that's just a very small part of the list, as you will see with those people reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

And why are so many of these people, why are such a large number of people opposed to it? Perhaps the easiest to understand of why people are against this bill is the issue of disclosure. In this bill, disclosure is called "publication." From the time of the founding of our country until recent years it was mandated by our law that every patent

application would be held confidential until the patent was issued. In fact, if a patent examiner left out some information about a patent application, they could end up in jail. It was a felony. Well, this bill is going to change all of that.

We have had a system that's been dramatically different from the rest of the world in this confidentiality, and it was this element that has been a major success for us. Yet in the legislation, H.R. 1908, as well as the legislation we beat 10 years ago, that's one of the first things they're trying to do is end the confidentiality. In fact, this bill, H.R. 1908, at this point eliminates the right of confidentiality for American inventors. H.R. 1908 would mandate the publication of all patent applications 18 months after the patent is applied for, whether or not the patent has been granted. Is everybody getting that? This bill will mandate that the people of India and China and Korea and elsewhere will have all of the details of our patent applications, our most cuttingedge secrets, before the patent is issued. It will be on the Internet.

Now, let's look at the numbers. 89,000 American patents were issued by the Patent Office last year; 32 percent of them went to small business or those companies who employ less than 500 employees. Twenty percent of U.S. origin patents, 20 percent of the patents chose to opt for the current provision of law that will prevent their application from being published before the patent is issued. So right now they have a right to opt for that because if people that apply for international patents, their patent is published after 18 months. But we have 20 percent of the U.S. origin patents opted not to permit their patent application to be published after 18 months. Last year, that means 20,000 inventors, about twothirds of all small business inventors. chose to keep their patent secret and keep it away from the prying eyes of China, Japan, Korea, India and others who would steal their new innovations.

And you don't have to take my word that these countries want the bill passed for sinister purposes. Just look at this quote from the Economic Times of India dated July 23, 2007. Listen to this, and I quote, "A crucial bill making its way through the U.S. Congress is set to give new inexpensive options for the Indian drug makers to attack the patents that give monopoly rights to the top-selling multinational corporation brands in the largest pharmaceutical market." Did you get that? That means they're waiting so that our pharmaceutical companies can invest hundreds of millions of dollars to try to develop a new drug, and they know they're going to get it. The Indians already are saying it's an inexpensive option for the Indian drug makers because they're going to be able to take that information and get more drugs on the market there before our own people are able to get those drugs, and the hundreds of millions of dollars of research of our companies will be just stolen.

That's why the pharmaceutical industry is against this bill. It is estimated that already at this time the U.S. economy loses \$250 billion a year from global intellectual property theft. This bill would double or triple that loss, and in the long run, equip our economic adversaries with what they need to compete with us and to drive Americans out of business. Got that? Our own technology being used to destroy American jobs.

It's our technology and our technological advancement that has let American workers compete with low-price workers overseas. Now they're going to change our laws because certain elements in our high-tech industries, meaning the electronics industry and the financial industry, do not want to pay royalties to our inventors; that we're going to provide this information to the rest of the world so they can steal it and use it against us. Doesn't sound like anybody's watching out for the interests of the American people.

Well, it should be easy for everyone to understand that part of the bill. And, in fact, the authors of the bill, even though they stuck to this, they put it in the bill originally. And 10 years ago they tried to push this same thing. They now say they're going to try to amend the bill so that provision isn't as tough.

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Well, what about the other provisions of the bill? Even if this provision comes out, because they know it is just too easy to understand how horrible that would be for America, the other provisions are just as bad. It is just that they are harder to understand.

So if the publication requirement comes out, people should understand that that, too, is part of a strategy to get the rest of the bill in which would undermine America's inventors. Those pushing H.R. 1908 want China, Japan, Korea and India and others to know every detail of developing technologies and our creative ideas, even before the patents have been issued. So we understand, this will facilitate that. That is pretty easy to see when you are talking about giving them all the information.

Just as bad, however, this bill opens up new avenues of attack for those foreign and domestic business predators who would purposely infringe on the inventor's patent rights. So, what we are doing, the rest of these provisions, that is easy to understand, this publication, you know, anyone can see, that is asking everybody around the world to steal our ideas and use them against us. Well, these other ideas are just as damaging. They basically would help foreign and domestic predators against our inventors.

H.R. 1908 would open up new doors of attack both before a patent is issued and after it is issued. Before, in expanded, what they call inter partes ex-

amination which, in effect, gives the infringers of a patent another opportunity to challenge every patent that they are infringing upon.

Once at the Patent and Trademark Office, and if unsuccessfully, if they fail the first time, they can try again in a court after the patent has been issued. So even if they had challenged the issuance of a patent beforehand in the current process, this bill allows them then to again challenge it after the patent has been issued in court, which dramatically increases the cost for the inventor, freezing out the little guys. It allows powerful corporate third parties to sit in and state their case while someone is trying to get their patent.

Yet again, this is an avenue given to the large corporate interests. And what does it do? It punishes the little guy. Then afterwards, we have a whole new postgrant review. Now that is in the beginning. They have a right to sit in on the process and to basically try to disrupt the patent process in the very beginning stages so the little guy has a tough time getting it granted. But then afterwards, there is a whole new postgrant review. This means that after the patent has been issued, we make it easier for the big guys to keep coming back and attacking the right of the person who developed this new technology. The new postgrant review lowers the bar of proving that a patent is invalid. Thus, we have actually changed the standard that has protected our inventors against aggressive and unjustified attacks by people challenging them.

Currently, the patent challenger must prove a patent's invalidity, prove that a patent is invalid by clear and convincing evidence. That is a quote, "by clear and convincing evidence." They are going to change that to the "preponderance of evidence." How will that affect the patent system? What we have here is an attempt to change that wording and change the standard in a way that weakens the foundation that a patent holder relies upon in terms of all of the legal defenses that he has to make. We end up with a situation where investors are going to hesitate to get involved with any small inventors because we now have changed the basic rules that have protected the small inventors against unjustified attacks.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, as with the immigration bill, this is not a fix. None of this is a fix. It will just make it worse. The corporate elite tells us that this will reduce lawsuits. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am confused, because the system that is now being used in Europe which is the system that they are proposing that we now put into our system, the same postgrant review system, they are trying to change our rules to make the same rules as they do in Europe. Well, Europe has three times the number of lawsuits that are filed in attempts to steal the patent rights of the inventor through lawsuits than we have in the United States.

So what is this going to do? It is going to flood our system with lawsuits. Of course, lawsuits are expensive. The little guy loses. In fact, Japan dropped this element from their system because it produced too many lawsuits. They dropped it in 2004. So while we are strengthening the chance of the big guy to attack the little guy even after the patent has been granted, they found it to be a disaster in Japan. They discarded it. In Europe, it causes three times the number of lawsuits.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the right path to take. It is not reform. It will make things worse.

I am going to yield to my good friend, MARCY KAPTUR, in one moment. But let me just note one other element here before we do. We hear about the widespread problem with patent lawsuits. This is something we hear about all the time. This is why we have to pass this legislation. Well, there are horror stories concerning some companies that have been tied up, very few, but some have been tied up and eventually having to relent to trial lawyers because of delays in the patent system. We also know about the examiners who are overworked. We know that our patent examiners are underpaid. They aren't getting the training they need and the proper education they need. Yes, we need to fix that.

In reality, patent lawsuits, of course, do not stem from these problems. Lawsuits are not a major problem. In fact, between 1993 and 2005, the number of patent lawsuits versus the number of patents granted has held steady. So although we have problems in the system, that is not what is resulting in a higher number of lawsuits. In fact, in 2006, there were only 102 cases that actually went to trial.

Mr. Speaker, this number is far below the average number of cases that that one District Court judge sees annually. And it is far fewer than what they have over in Europe. Of course, there is room for improvement, and I readily admit that. But this is not a crisis that demands us to dramatically change the fundamental nature of the system.

Mr. Speaker, as we get into more of a discussion of this, my friend, MARCY Kaptur, who has stood beside me in this fight for the last 10 years trying to protect the little guy, realizing that unless we protect the American inventor and American technology, that American workers and the standard of living of our people are going to decline, and that countries like Japan, India and others will steal our technology and use it to put our people out of work, this is a champion of the working people of our country. And we have a Republican-Democrat coalition here, as we will see on Friday.

I would now yield whatever time she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would thank the fine gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for securing the special order time this evening and join him in his special order concerning the patent bill that will be coming up later in the week.

I share his concern that this bill is not reform, and with what is happening across our country with the outsourcing of jobs, now is not the time to weaken U.S. patent protection, which is a constitutional protection going back to the founding of our Republic.

Congressman Rohrabacher has gone through a lot of the technicalities of what is involved in this bill that is coming before us. Let me just say that there was a magazine article published back in June by Manufacturing and Technology News in their June 29, 2007 issue. Viewers can g_0 tο www.manufacturingnews.com and pick it up. It was written by Dr. Pat Choate. What I find particularly compelling about this article is it gets into who actually is driving this bill and why is this bill coming at us, a bill that will weaken protections for U.S. inventors. or those that file in our country, at a time when we were hemorrhaging jobs. certainly in the manufacturing sector, but not just that sector, and at a time when our trade deficit is now close to \$1 trillion a year, a time when our budget deficit and our trade deficit is so high that the Federal Reserve a week ago had to resort to creating money, printing money and shoving it into our financial system to try to prop it up.

What is happening? Why would this bill be coming up now? We know that the forces that are driving this bill are very large corporations, transnational corporations, the very ones that are moving our jobs offshore. And what they are about is that sometimes those very big companies get sued because they infringe on other people's patents. They then go to court and lose, and they are forced to pay fines. In response, because they don't like that, they are financing an expensive lobbying propaganda and legal campaign to weaken our patent laws.

They are using the wrong measure. What they should do is stop infringing on other people's patents and not try to change the whole patent system as a solution to their predicament. Let me just place a number on the record that is quoted in this article. And I don't know that the gentleman has done this yet this evening, but between 1993 and 2005, four of these big companies paid out more than \$3.5 billion in patent settlements. But in the same period, their earnings were more than \$1.4 trillion, making their patent settlements only about one-quarter of 1 percent of their revenues. Now they wish to reduce even those costs, not by changing their obviously unfair and often illegal business practices, but by persuading Congress and also the Supreme Court to weaken U.S. patent protections which have been guaranteed since the founding of the Republic. They have tried to convince Congress that there is some type of litigation crisis. As the

gentleman has just properly outlined, there is no litigation crisis in the courts relating to patents.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. There are 102 cases over a year, which is basically what one judge sees. There is no litigation crisis. But again, as you are aware, what we have here is they are trying to use that as cover to try to do something else, because the bill is not aimed at correcting that. The bill is aimed at permitting these large companies to take, at will, from America's inventors.

Ms. KAPTUR. We know how much they have been taking in other ways, taking health benefits away from our people, taking good wages away from our people, literally taking jobs and transporting them someplace else. And our patent system has been at the basis of the creativity of this country. It is a great, great system

By the way, I will say for the record, there is a website one can go to, www.uscourts.gov/caseload2006. tents.html. And on that site, you can look at these various cases to see that the courts aren't overloaded. The courts aren't saying they are overloaded in terms of suits relating to patents. But one of the parts of the bill that truly, truly concerns me, and why I shall vote against it, is that these very large transnational corporations want to change the longstanding practice of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of granting a patent to the person who actually invented it. We call it "first to invent." They want to change it to "first to file." In other words, if they get the system they want, which means that an inventor takes their brilliant idea to the Patent and Trademark Office, even before it is approved, it has to be posted on a Web site, and somebody in China or somebody in Tokyo can take that, file it in their country, and they say, "grant the patent to the first to file." Not the first to invent.

We protect individuals in this country. We protect that intellectual capital. To even suggest that we should go to a system that the gentleman has said that exists in Europe, for example, that is not the American system. Before the American system of economics got captured by these globalists who are controlling Wall Street and some of these big decisions that are hollowing out communities across this country, we had a country that respected the Constitution and the right of the inventor. You. The person who actually created the idea, whether you are a musician, whether you are an electronics expert, whether you are an automotive expert, whether you make a decent paper towel hanger for your kitchen, if you have a better idea, our legal system protects you against the large companies and the small.

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Ms. KAPTUR. You have a right to your idea.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The fundamental rules that were laid down 200

years ago on the very subject, for example, not just the confidentiality, which they are trying to destroy, but the subject that you brought up is first to file, versus the concept that we had in our system for over 200 years, which is that we respect the person who is the first to invent.

Inventors have told me over and over again that if we change our system, and, by the way, in Europe and Japan that is the way their systems are, and, of course, they don't protect the little guy. Their systems were designed at a time when they weren't talking about individual rights, but were trying to protect corporate interest in their country.

But first to file would flood our system with patent applications day after day after day. The large corporations who can afford to make a new filing every time there is a little step forward, you would end up flooding the system, as compared to what it is today. Talk about delays in the patent system. It would have a horrible impact.

In fact, some of the other things that they are suggesting also in terms of these, on June 7th, 2007, a letter to Congress from Chief Judge Paul Michael of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the U.S. Federal Circuit Court warned Congress that the learning curve for all of these changes that they are talking about, especially the first to file and the various changes in the standards, will result in additional court delays that would be severe and would add additional attorneys fees and costs.

So that is what we have. In the name of trying to prevent a glut, which they say now is flooding our courts, when there are only 102 cases, they are going to create changes that will flood our courts and add dramatically to the cost for an individual inventor.

Ms. KAPTUR. If the gentleman would be kind enough to yield to me again, it would force our inventors to defend themselves in a way that they don't have to today to go through all these additional bureaucratic hurdles, because under the current system we protect your idea, we protect your right as an inventor, no matter how small you are.

In fact, if you look at the patents filed every day, which I look at as the seed capital of the future of this economy, a third of those patent applications are from very small inventors. They are from universities. We see every day major counterfeiters around the world taking our ideas and doing knockoffs. They actually come to your district, Congressman ROHRABACHER, before they come to mine, because you have got that port down there in Southern California.

But we know how counterfeiting occurs and what the potential is in other places to cheat, and we have protections for our people against that.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. If I might add, the protections we have had, there are penalties that companies will pay, and you mentioned that those large corporations paid \$2 billion, or I forget the exact figure you used, in terms of damages. Well, this bill would reduce the amount of damages that can be collected from a patent owner, an inventor who has been violated by an infringer.

If a company steals someone's nice idea and does not pay them for it and starts using it, especially foreign companies, this bill actually reduces the amount of money that can be expected by changing the criteria of how you can assess damages. What you will end up with is it won't be worthwhile for the inventor to have to pay the lawyers and go after these infringers, and our inventors will be high and dry, the technology that they do invent will go overseas, so they will cease to invent.

Who is going to be worse off? Everybody is going to be worse off.

Ms. KAPTUR. It would seem to me that at this point in our country we would be wanting to encourage innovation here in the United States. We want to be rewarding those people who are creating the future, whether it is in agriculture, whether it is in transportation, whether it is in medical care.

We have all seen the companies in our district where jobs are growing, and they begin with invention, they begin with creativity guaranteed by our Constitution. Why would we make it more difficult for them in the courts? Why would we make it easier for those who want to take their idea or get a sneak preview of their idea before their patent is granted? Why would we want to give them greater advantage in this struggle for jobs in America? It is beyond me. But I understand power and I understand the power of these companies.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. It is easy to understand why it is going on, because the bill that is coming forward on Friday, H.R. 1908, that bill is designed not to help American competitiveness. That bill is not designed to protect the property rights of inventors. That bill is totally designed for the purpose of weakening the system for the American inventor and protecting the ability of the big guys, the guys who are shipping the jobs to China already. that is how much they care about us, to protect their ability to use technology and to steal it without having to pay for it. That is the purpose. It weakens it. The whole bill is designed to weaken the patent system.

As I have used the example of the immigration bill before, where people didn't want to talk about amnesty, everybody knows that was the real purpose. They used the word "comprehensive" to cover up that and not to debate amnesty.

This bill, the "comprehensive reform bill," is designed to weaken the system, but they are using "reform" as a word to make it sound like they are trying to improve things.

Let us note the reason. If you ask these big companies and the people

proposing this why we have to do it, they are not going to tell you we are doing it for the big guys. We are doing it because the financial industry and the electronics industry, they don't want to pay royalties, and they do their manufacturing overseas, so they don't care about the American worker anyway. They are not going to say that. What they are going to say is we need to harmonize all of our laws dealing with economics. We need to get up with the rest of the world. It is called harmonization. We heard that 10 years ago. We have to harmonize our law with the rest of the world.

We have had the strongest protection for patent rights of any country in the world since our country's founding, and it has served us well. Now they want to harmonize it with the rest of the world by lowering our standards, by lowering our protection.

If we did that with other freedoms, the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, there would be a revolution in our country, because if we want to push for all countries to have one standard, well, they should be increasing their standards to meet our level of protection of rights, not having us lower the protection that we have for our individual citizens.

Ms. KAPTUR. Yes. And you know at this time in this country, where it is hard to find a good paying job, it is really very hard, some of these companies that are trying to weaken our patent system actually pay their staffs less than companies that are in communities like I represent, where people earn a living wage.

These companies also outsource a lot of jobs related to component manufacture and so forth. I find it interesting that they have so much power and they have so much influence that now they are trying to, in a way, take away the potential for districts like mine to reinvent themselves by protecting those who are creating new ideas. In fact, they want to get rid of this opt-out provision, where if you are a small inventor and you file as first-to-invent at the Patent Office, you have a choice whether you want foreign entities to be able to see that invention now. They have this opt-out provision, where you protect yourself before you are able to get the approval and try to get the money to manufacture or provide the service that you want to provide.

This will make it very difficult. About half of the inventions that we have come from small businesses, universities and independent inventors who select that opt-out provision.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Right, because they don't want the foreign interests to have all that information even before they get issued the patent.

Ms. KAPTUR. Absolutely. I don't think the average American understands how hard it is to get the money to start up your company. Once you have filed and gotten the patent itself, it is not easy if you are a small inventor. Why would you want to reveal that abroad?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Clearly, when we are talking about harmonizing our laws with the rest of the world, this is not an excuse to dramatically bring down the rights that have been enjoyed, the protections our people have enjoyed, and which have assured America's prosperity and the security of our people.

In fact, let's take a look at these huge electronics corporations and huge financial interests that are pushing H.R. 1908. These are the same companies that build their manufacturing units in China and have built up the economy of China so they can outcompete Americans. These are the same companies that have actually worked with a despotic gangster regime in Beijing so that their computers can be used to help track down political dissidents.

They tell us, well, we have to improve the economy of China in order to have them evolve into a more peaceful and more Democratic country. That is baloney. What they are doing over there is getting a quick profit. They are sitting over there getting their blood money at a 25 percent profit a year, when if they would have the same projects and have the same manufacturing in the United States, perhaps they would only make a 5 or 10 percent profit.

What it is, they have no loyalty to American ideals and they don't have a loyalty to the American worker. Without American working people standing up for these principles, these big companies would have nothing. We would live in a world that would be awash with tyrants, if it wasn't for the American people who defend liberty and justice throughout the world.

But yet these corporations take all of them for granted, just like they take for granted these small inventors. They look at them as nerds. These big executives, who will live in gated communities and go to the country clubs, they look at these inventors as nerds. The creative types are just the creative types. We have seen it over and over again.

That is the way they treat the American people as well, with arrogance and with a total lack of consideration. They go over and they invest in China, when they should be giving jobs, decent paying jobs, to the American people. But their profit margin would be a little less.

By the way, that profit margin that we are talking about, this isn't a profit margin that goes just to their stockholders. We are talking about big corporate billionaires who give themselves huge corporate salaries. And what are they doing? They are putting American workers out of work and sending it over to China.

This bill is their bill. H.R. 1908 will permit them to not only take the jobs to China, but to take the technology that is invented in our country to China to outcompete the workers here that are left.

Ms. KAPTUR. As a member of the Defense Subcommittee, the gentleman might be surprised to learn that today I spent part of my day learning that the U.S. Department of Defense main contract for procurement of tires for our vehicles, defense vehicles, is from a foreign company. And we have very few tire manufacturers left in the United States of America.

I couldn't believe it. The company that is favored, Michelin, is building a facility in China to manufacture tires. I thought, wait a minute. What about Akron, Ohio? What about North Carolina? What about Kansas? What about other places where we make tires in this country? How is it possible that the Department of Defense signs a contract for tires with a foreign company? I have got nothing against Michelin, but what about American jobs and technology?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The gentlewoman is right on target. What you have to do to understand how evil that is is realize that the Chinese couldn't have built that tire company because they did not have the equipment to do it. We have a major corporation from the United States sending our technology and our equipment over there, where American workers in the past would be able to outproduce low-paid Chinese workers because we had the technology. Our corporate leaders now have sent jobs over there by giving them the technology they need to outcompete American workers.

I will have to say we have a little disagreement on trade in terms of democratic countries, because I don't see anything wrong with trading with democratic countries. What we are referring to right now is something we both totally agree on, how can we have free trade with despotic regimes like China and other dictatorships around the world, where they keep their own people in abject poverty, and we are going to let our corporations take our technology over there, take even our investment there? A lot of times it is with government-guaranteed done loans from our government.

So this is all part of an overall problem, not a problem, but a threat to the American people, and this is a new wrinkle. In H.R. 1908, this is just the part where they are going to take the technology that is invented here immediately over and let their companies overseas steal it and use if, and then say to the inventors, go ahead and sue us. Try to get it.

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Ms. KAPTUR. I share the gentleman's value of free trade among free people, and I also believe it should be a two-way street. So when the United States has a trade imbalance with any country of over \$10 billion each of three consecutive years, I think we should go back and see what is wrong with that agreement. I think it ought to be assessed by the administration. I think we should find out what is going wrong.

We are not doing that anywhere on the globe. Whether it is China or whether it is Mexico, we are falling into deeper and deeper debt.

I think the measure is a real measure, not just political, but also the bottom line. Are we winning or losing in that trade relationship? If we are losing in that trade relationship, we ought to fix it.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. One thing we know is that today's corporations are far different than in the past. We have corporations that are basically multinational corporations. Yeah, American citizens may lead up these corporations, but they consider themselves to be the head of a huge multinational organization, and their loyalty isn't to the people of the United States, it is to, supposedly, the corporate structure which, of course, could mean that they put thousands of Americans out of work and not give it even a second thought.

We cannot rely on these corporate elites to make the policy that will determine the future of our country. And that is what is happening here. The corporate elite, basically the high-tech billionaires, have come around and written H.R. 1908, and it will be a disaster for the American people if we let this go by because in the long term it will eliminate our technological edge over our competitors.

Ms. KAPTUR. The gentleman was talking about the cheating that is done by many companies globally, and one of the reasons I don't care for the bill that is going to be brought before us is right now there are at least 15 different factors that a court can weigh in assessing fines on companies that cheat, that infringe on someone else's patent. What happens under this bill is these 15 factors that the courts like because it helps them make a judgment in whatever the particulars of the case might be, are reduced to one and the other 14 factors don't really have to be weighed. So there is a significant change in this legislation that would heavily impact on what the courts can do and how they look at a given case.

I will submit this article for the RECORD that talks about Bose's port tube technology being infringed on by JBL as an example of what is happening.

[From Manufacturing & Technology News, June 29, 2007]

COVERING INNOVATION, GLOBALIZATION AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

PATENT "REFORM" IS ANYTHING BUT

(By Pat Choate)

Ironically, Congress is now threatening China with harsh remedies if it does not quickly stiffen its patent protections, even as Congress marks up legislation that will dramatically weaken U.S. patent protections. This bill is the Patent Reform Act of 2007

This schizophrenic policy is being driven by a group of "Big Tech" transnational corporations that repeatedly infringe the patents of others, get sued, lose in court and are then forced to pay billions of dollars in penalties. Now, in response, they are financing an expensive lobbying, propaganda and legal campaign to weaken U.S. patent laws by passing this Patent "Reform" Act. They cleverly call themselves The Coalition for Patent Fairness (CPF); included are large transnational corporations such as Adobe, Microsoft, Cisco, Intel, eBay, Lenovo, Dell and Oracle.

During the period 1993–2005, four of the CPF companies paid out more than \$3.5 billion in patent settlements. In the same period, their combined revenues were \$1.4 trilion, making their patent settlements only about one-quarter of one percent of their revenues. Now, they wish to reduce even those costs, not by changing their obviously unfair, and often illegal, business practices, but by persuading Congress, and also the Supreme Court, to weaken U.S. patent protections.

These corporations have convinced many members of Congress and many editorial writers that the U.S. patent system is badly broken and that it requires a major legislative overhaul. Supposedly, they say, the U.S. is in the midst of a "litigation crisis" where responsible corporations (CPF members) are being penalized by unworthy lawsuits. And, also supposedly, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is issuing massive numbers of unworthy patents that are being used in lawsuits against innovative companies (again, CPF members).

The "litigation crisis" and "unworthy patents" allegations simply do not hold up under examination.

The real facts of the so-called litigation crisis are that for the past two decades the number of patent lawsuits commenced annually has been about 1.5 percent of all patents granted. In 2006, it was 1.47 percent. This is business as usual. Most patent lawsuits, moreover, settle before trial. In 1979, some 79 percent of patent cases settled before trial, while in 2004 almost 86 percent did. Matters are actually improving.

Also, the U.S. has few patent trials: For instance, in 2001 only 76 patent lawsuits were tried and only 102 went to trial in 2006. By no measure can 102 patent trials be considered a national litigation crisis. The annual report of Federal Judicial Caseload Statistics, which is on the Internet, provides the factual antidote to false claims of a litigation crisis (www.uscourts.gov/caseload2006/contents .html).

As to the massive numbers of "unworthy patents" argument, the real-world test is how many patents are challenged and the outcome of those challenges. Between 1981 and 2006 the USPTO issued more than 3.1 million patents. In that period, 8,600 were challenged at the Patent Office through inter partes and ex parte reexaminations. The number challenged amounts to less than three-tenths of one percent. Of those challenged, about 74 percent resulted in claims narrowed or cancelled. In addition, almost 60 percent of the relatively few patents challenged in a court trial are sustained.

My point is that the USPTO's work is certainly not perfect, but the Patent Office is also not pouring out a stream of bad patents.

If there are no patent "litigation crisis" and no patent "quality crisis," what is the real purpose of the Patent Reform Act of 2007 legislation before Congress?

A main goal is to legislate changes that will reduce penalties paid by infringers. Under existing law, a patent holder who is infringed upon is entitled to damages adequate to compensate for infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty. The courts now consider a list of 15 factors in that calculation, including apportioning the part of the realizable profit created by the infringed invention versus other factors such as the manufacturing process, promotion, sales or other patents owned by the infringer.

Under this bill, however, Congress mandates that the court "ensure that a reasonable royalty is applied only to the economic value properly attributable to the patent's special contribution over the prior art" while only allowing the consideration of the other 14 factors. The bill goes on to require that the court subtract from the analysis "the economic value properly attributable to the prior art, and other features or improvements, whether or not patented that contribute economic value to the infringing product or service." Think of this as a big finger on the scales of justice that favors the infringer.

Often, the infringed component is only one of dozens of parts and contributions that make up the product, but that component may be the very thing that makes the product sell.

JBL infringed Bose's patented port tube technology, for instance, which gives Bose speakers their distinctive clarity. Bose's technology vastly improved the sound of the JBL speakers and drove JBL's sales. Bose sued and won. JBL wanted the royalty determination based on the small value of a cheaply made, plastic port tube. The federal court, however, determined that Bose's technology is what drove JBL's sales and set the damages on the value of the entire speaker system. If the damages were apportioned only to the cost of making the port tube, Bose would have received a tiny fraction of what its invention was worth. If JBL were allowed to subtract the value of all prior art in the damage calculation, which this legislation would allow, Bose would likely have gotten almost zero.

Cutting the damages paid by infringers is the goal of the many serial infringers supporting this provision.

Chief Judge Paul R. Michel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit advised Congress in a letter dated June 7, 2007, that the current law on apportionment is stable, works well and is understood by litigators and judges, and that the new proposal would be a radical change that would cause great chaos in the legal system. He noted that this change would require a massive damage trial in every case and a new kind of costly macroeconomic analysis. "Resulting additional court delays would be severe," he wrote, "as would additional attorneys' fees and costs." I think that we can mark him down as opposed.

One other pernicious result is this "primary factor" apportionment provision would actually encourage more infringement. Rather than negotiate with a patent owner and pay for use of an innovation, many infringers would simply go ahead and use it, pay nothing and, if caught and proceeded against, then pay a small royalty payment eventually set by a federal judge.

If Congress enacts this provision, it is sanctioning the "taking" of a patent owner's property and drastically reducing the price, if anything, an infringer must pay. Think of it as "self-licensing" someone else's patent. During the life of a patent, copyright or trademark, there is no difference between real property and intellectual property. A patent belongs to someone. Often it has great value. The owners should decide how it is used and the terms of that use, not the infringers.

A second goal of the proposed legislation is to force the USPTO to publish on the Internet all patent applications 18 months after the date they are filed. Since most patent applications now take an average 31 months to process, the Big Tech corporations that are sponsoring this legislation would get an advanced peek at an applicant's secrets more than a year before the inventor has patent protection, that is, if the patent is even

granted, which for half of all applications, it is not. If an infringer took those secrets to China or India or anywhere where patent protection is lax, as many would, the inventor's only recourse would be to go to those countries and file a lawsuit. Few small companies, universities and inventors can afford this

Foreign pirates find this mandatory publication provision particularly useful. For China, South Korea and many other nations, the USPTO's computer in Arlington, Va., is their primary source of R&D. Many foreign corporations and governments fill a room with computers, engineers and fast Internet connections and then task them with finding new technologies in unprotected U.S. patent applications. The U.S. isn't the only country with this problem; the Japanese Patent Office reports their computers get 17,000 hits per day from China and 55,000 hits per day from South Korea.

When Congress first enacted this 18-month publication requirement in 1999 it also created a loophole. Inventors can opt-out of having their applications published if they agree not to file for any foreign patents. About half of all applications from small businesses, universities and independent inventors select to opt-out. The proposed bill would eliminate this opt-out choice.

The Big Tech corporations also want Congress to change the long-standing practice of the U.S. Patent Office of granting a patent to the first-person-to-invent to the practice used in Europe, Japan, China and elsewhere where the patent goes to the first-person-to-file the patent application.

A firt-to-file system strongly favors big corporations, who have the resources to track every aspect of an invention and file boxes and boxes of materials to support their claims, over small businesses, independent inventors and universities, who do not.

Equally important, this change of systems would create chaos at the USPTO and greatly contribute to the slowing of U.S. innovation. The USPTO would have to create numerous new forms and procedures and retrain its thousands of patent examiners and administrative people, even as it works down a backlog of 750,000 applications. All inventors, companies, patent lawyers and federal judges in the U.S. would be forced to learn this new system, its procedures and rules.

The turmoil created by this shift in the already beleaguered USPTO would guarantee a logjam there—one far greater than the passport backlog fiasco now underway at the State Department.

Incongruously, this legislation also proposes to solve America's supposed patent "litigation crisis" by creating a new forum for more litigation. This proposed "post grant" opposition process provides an infringer a lowcost means to challenge the very patent it is infringing and allows it to do so over the entire 20 year life of the patent at a lower burden of proof than required in a federal court.

Europe has the very system that Congress is being asked to copy. It is a litigation heaven for the patent bar. The annual European Patent Office (EPO) challenge rate was 5.4 percent of granted patents in 2005. The combination of all USPTO ex parte and interpartes challenges, all interference cases, plus all patent lawsuits commenced calculated as per the number of patents granted produces a comparable U.S. challenge rate of 1.8 percent. The EOP challenge rate is three times that of the United States and that does not count any patent lawsuits in Europe.

Japan dropped this system in 2004 because it created too many lawsuits. Of the many

bad ideas in this legislation, this post grant litigation process is probably the worst.

The principal victims of these and other Patent Reform Act of 2007 proposals will be small entity inventors—small businesses, individual inventors, universities and non-profit research organizations. Their patents are often the greatest, if not only, assets they hold. Most often, they need ownership of an unchallenged patent in order to get financing to actually develop it. And, when their patent secrets are stolen and used by larger infringers, they are generally unable to finance a lawsuit, particularly if the infringer operates outside the United States.

Yet, it is small entity inventors who file almost 30 percent of all U.S.-origin patent applications and receive 31 percent of all patents granted. Unlike the Big Tech companies, most of these innovators keep their R&D and production in the U.S. They are vital to America's future. But they are fragile. Special consideration of their situation and needs is in the nation's best interest.

Fortunately, many U.S. groups and organizations oppose the Patent Reform Act of 2007. Included are the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Business and Industrial Council, more than 450 venture capital firms, the Big Ten universities, plus dozens of other organizations. The Department of Commerce and the USPTO have written Congress that they do not support eliminating the 18-month opt-out rule, changing to a first-to-file system, altering the apportionment provision or creating a new litigation forum. Unfortunately, all this opposition has mattered little so far and this dangerous legislation is still moving forth in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

Each Member of Congress needs to closely examine the Patent Reform Act of 2007 for it will deeply affect every state, every community and every congressional district. We face a historic economic challenge in the global economy. Now is the time for Congress to strengthen U.S. patent protections rather than weaken them.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. People need to know that H.R. 1908 will be coming to the floor on Friday. I call it the "Steal America's Technology Act," and we need to defeat this bill. We need to have the support of the public and of our colleagues, and we are asking for that support today.

I would like to close with one story. It is a story of a statue of a man downstairs. If someone is going through the Capitol, he needs to look at the statue. There are many statues here, but it is a statue of a man named Philo Farnsworth. He was the personification of an individual inventor. He discovered, with his creative genius, the picture tube, the secret that created the picture tube for television. RCA had spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to find that secret. Philo Farnsworth made the mistake of trusting David Sarnoff, the head of RCA, with the secret, thinking we are going to work together to develop this for all humankind.

Sarnoff immediately cut off all communications with this man and tried to steal this invention, claiming credit for RCA itself. For 20 years, poor Philo Farnsworth, the personification of the little guy, was being beaten down by David Sarnoff because he didn't want to pay the royalties or give the credit to this one little guy, this one lone American.

That case went all the way to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court, God bless America, sided with the little guy, sided with Philo Farnsworth and reaffirmed that we are talking about rights that are guaranteed by our Constitution for all our citizens, the big guys and the little guys.

This bill, H.R. 1908, is a big guys' bill designed by the big guys to steal from the little guys and in the long run it will hurt all Americans.

I proudly stand by MARCY KAPTUR and Mr. MANZULLO and others who will be leading, helping us fight this back on Friday. We need everyone's support. We need all constituents to talk to their Congressman on this issue.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time this evening, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the patent bill coming up on Friday. Don't weaken U.S. patent protections that are based on our Constitution. Give our inventors and their creativity a chance to flourish for the next generation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Walz of Minnesota). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2118

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker protempore (Mr. WALZ of Minnesota) at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel problems.

Mr. PLATTS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral for a soldier killed in action in Afghanistan.

Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. McCarthy of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. Cummings, for $5\ \mathrm{minutes},\ \mathrm{today}.$

Ms. Woolsey, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. Kaptur, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Defazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McGovern, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Lipinski, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. McCarthy of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LATOURETTE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. Poe, for 5 minutes, September 12. Mr. Jones of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 12.

Mr. Reichert, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to House Resolution 632, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable PAUL E. GILLMOR.

There was no objection.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 6, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3110. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to conduct a standard competition of the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory function at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, and Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3111. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Guard ChalleNGe Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 32 U.S.C. 509(k); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3112. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of June 30, 2007, entitled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account," pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3113. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3114. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to the Government of Singapore (Transmittal No. DDTC 008-07); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3115. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a copy of proposed legislation entitled the Native American and Native Hawaiian Housing Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2007; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3116. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a copy of proposed legislation

entitled the Voucher and Rent Simplification Act of 2007; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3117. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-103, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 28, S.O. 04-13414, and Closing Clarification in Square 739, S.O. 06-221, Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3118. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-94, "Retail Class Exemption Clarification Temporary Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

3119. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-93, "Bank Charter Modernization Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3120. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-91, "Non-Resident Taxi Drivers Registration Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3121. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-92, "Unfoldment, Inc., Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3122. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-85, "Ballpark Parking Completion Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3123. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-84, "Ballpark Hard and Soft Costs Cap Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3124. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-86, "One-Time Relocation of Licensees Displaced by the Ballpark and Skyland Development Project Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3125. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-87, "District of Columbia Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3126. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-88, "Election Date Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Beform.

3127. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-89, "Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3128. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-95, "Heat Wave Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3129. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-96, 'District of Columbia Consumer Protection Fund Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3130. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-97, "District of Columbia Regional Airports Authority Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3131. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-98, "Calvin Woodland Sr. Place Designation Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3132. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-99, "Adams Alley Designation Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3133. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-100, "Joe Pozell Square Designation Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3134. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-101, "Senior Driver Empowerment Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3135. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-102, "Historic Preservation Tax Credit Partnership and Limited Liability Company Clarification Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3136. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-90, "Eastern Market and Georgetown Public Library Disaster Relief Temporary Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3137. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report on the Administration's category rating system covering the period from November 23, 2005 through November 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3138. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3139. A letter from the Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270) and OMB Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities, the Commission's FY 2006 inventory of Commercial Activities and Inherently Governmental Functions; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3140. A letter from the Interim Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting Pursuant to Title II, Section 203, of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, the Corporation's Supplemental Report for Fiscal Years 2004, 2005, and 2006;

to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3141. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Permits; Regulations for Managing Resident Canada Goose Populations (RIN: 1018-AV15) received August 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3142. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Early-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations (RIN: 1018-AV12) received August 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3143. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to Remove the Idaho Springsnail (Pyrgulopsis(=Fontelicella) idahoensis) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (RIN: 1018-AU66) received August 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3144. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Catesbaea melanocarpa (RIN: 1018-AU76) received August 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3145. A letter from the Chief, Division of Management Authority, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Regulations Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (RIN: 1018-AD87) received August 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3146. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations To Implement the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (RIN: 1018-AT69) received August 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3147. A letter from the Chief, Division of Management Authority, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Regulations Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (RIN: 1018-AD87) received August 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3148. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (RIN: 1018-AU74) received August 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3149. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Extension of Emergency Fishery Closure Due to the Presence of the Toxin that Causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning [Docket No. 050613158-5262-03; I.D. 090105A] (RIN: 0648-AT48) received August 14, 2007,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3150. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XB58) received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3151. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch and Rougheye Rockfish in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XB45) received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3152. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XB43) received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3153. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting a copy of the Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States for the March 2007 session, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 331; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3154. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "the Hague Agreement Implementation Act"; to the

Committee on the Judiciary.

3155. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from the Rocky Flats Plant in Golden, Colorado be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3156. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from the Rocky Flats Plant in Golden, Colorado be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3157. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from the Rocky Flats Plant in Golden, Colorado be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary

3158. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Twenty-Third Annual Report of Accomplishments Under the Airport Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2006; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3159. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 2002, a description of the change to an existing law that would be required to bring the United States into compliance with the United States-Panama Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3160. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 2002, a description of the change to an existing law that would be required to bring the United States into compliance with the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. McGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 633. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans (Rept. 110–316). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3473. A bill to provide for a land exchange with the City of Bountiful, Utah, involving National Forest System land in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and to further land ownership consolidation in that national forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 3474. A bill to expand the Safe Streets Program, to establish a National Gang Activity Database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 3475. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the estate and gift tax unified credit to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000, to adjust such amount for inflation, to repeal the 1-year termination of the estate tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 3476. A bill to convey the parcel of real property known as the John Sevier Range in Knox County, Tennessee, to the State of Tennessee; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FERGUSON (for himself and Mr. Towns):

H.R. 3477. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require third-party verification of compliance of children's products with consumer product safety standards promulgated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 3478. A bill to prohibit the closure or relocation of the field office of the Farm Service Agency in Clark County, Indiana; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 3479. A bill to amend title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to require, as a precondition to commencing a civil action with respect to a place of public accomodation or a commercial facility, that an opportunity be provided to correct alleged violations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. ANDREWS):

H. Con. Res. 203. Concurrent resolution condemning the persecution of labor rights advocates in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H. Con. Res. 204. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that States and local political subdivisions are not preempted from the enactment and enforcement of immigration-related laws and ordinances that do not directly conflict with Federal immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REGULA:

H. Res. 632. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Paul E. Gillmor, a Representative of the State of Ohio: considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. Shuster, Ms. Fallin, Ms. Herseth SANDLIN, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mr. Boswell, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SHULER, Mr. TANNER, Mr. HILL, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. Ross, Mr. Lincoln Davis of Tennessee. Mr. Mahoney of Florida, Mr. Walz of Minnesota, Mr. Davis of Kentucky, Mr. McNulty, Mr. Ells-WORTH, Mr. McCaul of Texas, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. Boren, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. GOR-DON, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. Wilson of Ohio, Mr. Chan-DLER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DON-NELLY, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BARROW, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. ABER-CROMBIE, Mr. HODES, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H. Res. 634. A resolution encouraging participation in hunting and fishing, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Hunting and Fishing Day and the efforts of hunters and fishermen toward the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. ELLISON):

H. Res. 635. A resolution recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commending Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. COHEN.

 $\rm H.R.~74;~Mr.~GILCHREST~$ and $\rm Mr.~VAN~$ HOLLEN.

H.R. 160: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. Jo Ann DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. McNulty, Mr. Towns, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, and Mr. Blumenauer.

H.R. 241: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

 $H.R.\ 278:\ Mr.\ Kuhl of New York.$

 $\rm H.R.~303;~Mr.~RUSH,~Mr.~SESSIONS,~and~Mr.~GRAVES.$

H.R. 370: Mr. GRAVES.

 $\rm H.R.~405;~Mr.~GENE~GREEN~of~Texas~and~Mr.~PEARCE.$

H.R. 507: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 538: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 690: Mr. Tom Davis of Virginia.

H.R. 704: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 715: Mr. STARK.

- H.R. 725: Mr. PICKERING.
- H.R. 743: Mrs. Cubin.
- H.R. 758: Mr. ISSA and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
- H.R. 772: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
- H.R. 881: Mr. ANDREWS.
- H.R. 954: Mr. RUSH.
- H.R. 997: Mr. MCCOTTER.
- H.R. 1023: Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Lampson, Mr. Gingrey, Mr. English of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Royce.
- H.R. 1043: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 - H.R. 1071: Mr. WEINER.
- H.R. 1091: Mr. GILCHREST.
- H.R. 1092: Mr. Roskam.
- H.R. 1110: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HAYES, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Mr. SALI.
- H.R. 1125: Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. SALAZAR.
- H.R. 1154: Mr. King of New York, Mr. Holt, Mr. Young of Florida, Mr. Rangel, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Maloney of New York, Mr. Altmire, Ms. Berkley, Mr. Crowley, Ms. Matsui, Mr. Obey, Ms. Woolsey, Mrs. Capps, Mr. Honda, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Dent, Mr. Heller, Mr. Lahood, Mr. Manzullo, Mr. Pickering, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Wamp, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Kind, Mr. McGovern, and Mr. Ramstad.
 - H.R. 1192: Mr. JINDAL and Mr. BACA.
 - H.R. 1223: Mr. BOUCHER.
 - H.R. 1236: Mr. BOOZMAN.
 - H.R. 1273: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
- $\rm H.R.~1303;~Mr.~Wamp,~Mr.~Doggett,~and~Mr.~Emanuel.$
- H.R. 1342: Mr. STEARNS.
- H.R. 1346: Mr. Rush.
- H.R. 1394: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 1409: Mr. KILDEE.
- H.R. 1422: Mr. WYNN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. FILNER.
 - H.R. 1424: Mr. Wolf.
 - H.R. 1436: Mr. Sessions.
- H.R. 1440: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Frelinghuysen.
- H.R. 1461: Mr. PAYNE.
- $\rm H.R.~1514:~Mrs.~Drake,~Mr.~Price~of~North~Carolina,~and~Mr.~Rodriguez.$
- H.R. 1518: Mrs. Drake and Mr. Stupak.
- $\rm H.R.~1532;~Mr.~Doggett.$
- $\rm H.R.~1537;~Mr.~Dicks.$
- H.R. 1553: Mr. LoBiondo.
- H.R. 1576: Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. FORBES.
- H.R. 1588: Mr. BOUCHER.
- H.R. 1596: Mr. SAXTON and Mr. WAMP.
- H.R. 1621: Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Ms. Herseth Sandlin, and Mr. Moran of Kansas.
- H.R. 1644: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. SCHIFF
 - H.R. 1649: Mr. FORTUÑO.
 - H.R. 1650: Mr. Frelinghuysen.
- $\rm H.R.$ 1665: Mr. Upton, Mr. Olver, and Mr. Boucher.
- H.R. 1687: Mr. Stark.
- H.R. 1707: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- $H.R.\ 1713;\ Mr.\ Snyder$ and $Ms.\ Baldwin.$
- H.R. 1732: Mr. Jefferson.
- H.R. 1755: Mr. Cohen and Mr. Honda.
- $\rm H.R.~1771;~Ms.~GINNY~BROWN-WAITE~of~Florida.$
 - H.R. 1808: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
- H.R. 1823: Mr. LAMPSON.
- H.R. 1876: Mr. Turner, Mr. Davis of Alabama, Mr. David Davis of Tennessee, Mr. Burton of Indiana, Mr. Wynn, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, and Mr. Bachus.
 - H.R. 1907: Mr. INSLEE.
 - H.R. 1924: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

- H.R. 1983: Mr. COHEN.
- $\rm H.R.$ 1992: Mr. Pastor, Mr. Hare, and Mr. Nadler.
- $H.R.\ 2003:\ Mr.\ FILNER$ and Mrs. Davis of California.
- H.R. 2015: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. COSTA.
- H.R. 2045: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. DOYLE.
- $\rm H.R.~2061;~Mr.~GRIJALVA,~Mr.~THOMPSON~of~Mississippi,~Mr.~Wynn,~and~Ms.~KAPTUR.$
- H.R. 2063: Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
- H.R. 2064: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Defazio, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Wynn, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Mr. Boucher, and Mrs. Napolitano.
- H.R. 2073: Mr. BOUCHER.
- H.R. 2075: Mr. Wu.
- $\rm H.R.~2095;~Ms.~JACKSON-LEE$ of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, and Mr. Watt.
- H.R. 2108: Mr. SESTAK.
- $H.R.\ 2116:\ Mr.\ CLEAVER,\ Mr.\ BONNER,\ and\ Mr.\ PORTER.$
- H.R. 2123: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. McCollum of Minnesota, and Mr. Abercrombie.
- H.R. 2188: Mr. Doggett and Mr. Kennedy.
- H.R. 2236: Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California.
- H.R. 2244: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. JINDAL. H.R. 2290: Mr. LANGEVIN.
- H.R. 2343: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
- H.R. 2353: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. LAMPSON.
- H.R. 2417: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. FILNER.
- H.R. 2452: Mr. PLATTS.
- $\rm H.R.~2478;~Mr.~PALLONE~and~Ms.~ZOE~LOFGREN~of~California.$
 - H.R. 2488: Mr. YARMUTH.
- H.R. 2495: Mr. JINDAL and Mr. BOUCHER.
- H.R. 2514: Mr. GORDON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HASTINGS OF Florida, Mr. DAVIS OF Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Ms. SUTTON.
- H.R. 2550: Mr. Ross, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Bonner, Mr. Jindal, Mr. Wamp, Mr. Saxton, and Mr. Cooper.
- H.R. 2596: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. McCollum of Minnesota, and Mr. Olver.
- H.R. 2605: Mr. STARK.
- H.R. 2606: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. CLAY.
- H.R. 2666: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. WYNN.
- H.R. 2677: Mr. ARCURI and Ms. BALDWIN.
- H.R. 2734: Mr. HERGER and Mr. SHUSTER.
- H.R. 2743: Mr. Ross.
- H.R. 2744: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. McCollum of Minnesota, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 - H.R. 2761: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 - H.R. 2814: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 - H.R. 2819: Mr. KUCINICH.
- $\rm H.R.~2827;~Mr.~MARSHALL~and~Mr.~MORAN~of~Kansas.$
- H.R. 2881: Mr. BACA.
- H.R. 2894: Mr. FORBES.
- H.R. 2911: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
- $H.R.\ 2916:\ Mr.\ PAUL$ and $Mr.\ PLATTS.$
- H.R. 2943: Mr. BOUCHER.
- H.R. 2954: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. BARTON of Texas.
- H.R. 2958: Ms. CARSON.
- H.R. 2997: Mr. Sestak. H.R. 3001: Ms. Kaptur and Mr. Boucher.
- H.R. 3026: Mr. SPRATT and Mr. WAMP.
- H.R. 3046: Mr. Sestak.
- H.R. 3054: Mr. McCotter.
- H.R. 3084: Mr. CASTLE.
- H.R. 3090: Mr. Lampson, Mr. Wamp, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Paul, Ms. Pryce of Ohio, Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico, Mr. Stupak, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Ms. Kaptur, and Mr. Bachus.
 - H.R. 3099: Ms. DELAURO.
- H.R. 3140: Ms. Herseth Sandlin, Mr. Butterfield, and Mr. Goode.
- H.R. 3144: Mr. LAMPSON.
- H.R. 3145: Mr. Forbes and Mrs. Myrick.
- H.R. 3149: Mrs. Musgrave.

- H.R. 3150: Mr. GERLACH.
- H.R. 3197: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. McGOVERN.
- $H.R.\ 3249;\ Mr.\ Rodriguez$ and $Mr.\ Porter.$
- H.R. 3257: Mr. Smith of Washington.
- H.R. 3283: Ms. WATSON.
- H.R. 3298: Ms. Matsui, Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Farr.
- H.R. 3300: Mr. SHIMKUS.
- H.R. 3320: Mr. Wolf, Mr. McCotter, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Hastings of Florida.
- $\rm H.R.~3327;~Mr.~GONZALEZ~and~Mr.~Young~of~Florida.$
 - H.R. 3339: Mr. BERMAN.
- $\rm H.R.~3402;~Mr.~MORAN~of~Virginia~and~Mr.~HINCHEY.$
 - H.R. 3431: Mr. CROWLEY.
 - H.R. 3432: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 - H.R. 3452: Mr. Weldon of Florida.
- H.R. 3463: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KIND, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. HULL.
 - H.J. Res. 6: Mr. FORBES.
- H.J. Res. 40: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico and Mr. POMEROY.
 - H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. DOYLE.
- H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. CAMPBELL of California and Mr. Lewis of Kentucky.
- H. Con. Res. 176: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. SPRATT.
 - H. Con. Res. 183: Mr. WELLER.
- H. Con. Res. 193: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
 - H. Res. 68: Mr. COHEN.
- H. Res. 71: Ms. CLARKE.
- H. Res. 185: Mr. COHEN.
- H. Res. 209: Mr. Frank of Massachusetts.
- H. Res. 212: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HARE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. TOWNS.
 - H. Res. 303: Mr. LAMPSON.
 - H. Res. 443: Mr. SPRATT.
- H. Res. 442: Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CARSON, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Mr. Rogers of Michigan, and Mr. Davis of Il-
- linois. H. Res. 536: Mr. FATTAH.
- H. Res. 550: Mr. FATTAH.
 H. Res. 554: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KUCINIGH, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FARR, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
- Mr. Porter, and Mr. Van Hollen. H. Res. 563: Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr.
- RUSH, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H. Res. 616: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. KING of
- New York.
- H. Res. 618: Mr. STARK. H. Res. 629: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. McGovern,
- and Ms. Lee. H. Res. 631: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. CANNON.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIM-ITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIM-ITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The manager's amendment to be offered by Representative Conyers or a designee to H.R. 1908, the "Patent Reform Act," does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 811

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT No. 1: In section 252(b)(2)(B) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be amended by section 2(d)(2) of the bill, strike the period and insert the following: ", but does not include any precinct which the chief executive of the State designates as a designated rural precinct under section 301(d)(2)(C) with respect to any election held in 2008."

In section 252(b)(2)(C) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be amended by section 2(d)(2) of the bill, strike the period and insert the following: ", but does not include any precinct which the chief executive of the State designates as a designated rural precinct under section 301(d)(2)(C) with respect to any election held in 2008."

In section 301(d)(2)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be amended by section 2(e) of the bill, strike "subparagraph (B)" and insert "subparagraphs (B) and (C)".

Add at the end of section 301(d)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be amended by section 2(e) of the bill, the following:

"(C) WAIVER FOR CERTAIN RURAL PRECINCTS.—

"(i) WAIVER.—The requirements of this section which are first imposed on a State and jurisdiction pursuant to the amendments made by section 2 of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 shall not apply with respect to an election for Federal office in any precinct which the chief executive of the State involved designates as a designated rural precinct for purposes of this subparagraph with respect to the election (in accordance with clause (ii)).

"(ii) DESIGNATION OF PRECINCTS.—The chief executive of a State may designate a precinct as a designated rural precinct for purposes of this subparagraph with respect to an election if the precinct is located in a county classified as a nonmetropolitan county by the Secretary of Agriculture in the most recent classification issued by the Secretary prior to the date of the election."

In section 321(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be added by section 4(a) of the bill, add at the end the following:

"(3) EXCEPTION FOR DESIGNATED RURAL PRE-CINCTS.—A State shall not be required to administer an audit of the results of an election for Federal office in any precinct which the chief executive of the State involved designates as a designated rural precinct with respect to the election under section 301(d)(2)(C)."

H.R. 811

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT No. 2: In section 301(d)(2)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be amended by section 2(e) of the bill, strike "subparagraph (B)" and insert "subparagraphs (B) and (C)".

Add at the end of section 301(d)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be amended by section 2(e) of the bill, the following:

- "(C) DELAY FOR CERTAIN RURAL PRE-CINCTS.—
- "(i) DELAY.—This paragraph shall apply with respect to the designated rural precincts located within a State—
- ''(I) as if the reference in subparagraph (A) to 'November 2008' were a reference to 'November 2010'; and
- "(II) as if the reference in subparagraph (B)(i) to '2012' were a reference to '2014'.
- "(ii) DESIGNATED RURAL PRECINCT DE-FINED.—In this subparagraph, a 'designated

rural precinct' means, with respect to a State, a precinct which is—

"(I) located in a county classified as a nonmetropolitan county by the Secretary of Agriculture in the most recent classification issued by the Secretary prior to January 1, 2008; and

"(II) designated by the chief executive of the State as a designated rural precinct for purposes of this subparagraph.".

In section 328 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as proposed to be added by section 4(a) of the bill, strike "November 2008" and insert the following: "November 2008, except that a State shall not be required to administer any hand counts under this subtitle in any designated rural precinct (as defined in section 301(d)(2)(C)) with respect to any election prior to the regularly scheduled general elections held in November 2010".

H.R. 2786

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT No. 1: Page 18, strike lines 1 through 6.

H.B. 2786

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.

No amounts made available pursuant to any authorization of appropriations under this Act, or under the amendments made by this Act, may be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

H.R. 2786

Offered By: Mr. Pearce

AMENDMENT No. 3: At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR GUARANTEED LOANS TO FINANCE TRIBAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

- (a) AUTHORITY.—To the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") may, subject to the limitations of this section and upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe. guarantee and make commitments to guarantee, the notes and obligations issued by Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)) with tribal approval, for the purposes of financing activities, carried out on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas, that under the first sentence of section 108(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 are eligible for financing with notes and other obligations guaranteed pursuant to such section 108.
- (b) Low-Income Benefit Requirement.—Not less than 70 percent of the aggregate funds received by an Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity as a result of a guarantee under this section shall be used for the support of activities that benefit low-income Indian families (as such term is defined for purposes of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996) on Indian reservations and other Indian areas.
- (c) FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS.—The Secretary shall establish underwriting criteria for guarantees under this section, including fees for such guarantees, as may be necessary to ensure that the program under this section for such guarantees is financially sound. Such fees shall be established in amounts that are sufficient, but do not exceed the minimum amounts necessary, to maintain a

negative credit subsidy for such program, as determined based upon risk to the Federal Government under such underwriting requirements.

(d) TERMS OF OBLIGATIONS.—Notes or other obligations guaranteed pursuant to this section shall be in such form and denominations, have such maturities, and be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by regulations issued by the Secretary. The Secretary may not deny a guarantee under this section on the basis of the proposed repayment period for the note or other obligation, unless the period is more than 20 years or the Secretary determines that the period causes the guarantee to constitute an unacceptable financial risk.

(e) LIMITATION ON PERCENTAGE.—A guarantee made under this section shall guarantee repayment of 95 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due on the notes or other obligations guaranteed.

(f) SECURITY AND REPAYMENT.-

- (1) REQUIREMENTS ON ISSUER.—To ensure the repayment of notes or other obligations and charges incurred under this section and as a condition for receiving such guarantees, the Secretary shall require the Indian tribe or housing entity issuing such notes or obligations to—
- (A) enter into a contract, in a form acceptable to the Secretary, for repayment of notes or other obligations guaranteed under this section:
- (B) demonstrate that the extent of such issuance and guarantee under this section is within the financial capacity of the tribe; and
- (C) furnish, at the discretion of the Secretary, such security as may be deemed appropriate by the Secretary in making such guarantees, including increments in local tax receipts generated by the activities assisted by a guarantee under this section or disposition proceeds from the sale of land or rehabilitated property, except that such security may not include any grant amounts received or for which the issuer may be eligible under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.
- (2) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—The full faith and credit of the United States is pledged to the payment of all guarantees made under this section. Any such guarantee made by the Secretary shall be conclusive evidence of the eligibility of the obligations for such guarantee with respect to principal and interest, and the validity of any such guarantee so made shall be incontestable in the hands of a holder of the guaranteed obligations.
- (g) Training and Information.—The Secretary, in cooperation with Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities, shall carry out training and information activities with respect to the guarantee program under this section.
- (h) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF GUARANTEES.—
- (1) AGGREGATE FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject only to the absence of qualified applicants or proposed activities and to the authority provided in this section, to the extent approved or provided in appropriations Acts, the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee notes and obligations under this section with an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.
- (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CREDIT SUBSIDY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to cover the costs (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) of guarantees under this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

- (3) AGGREGATE OUTSTANDING LIMITATION.— The total amount of outstanding obligations guaranteed on a cumulative basis by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall not at any time exceed \$1,000,000,000 or such higher amount as may be authorized to be appropriated for this section for any fiscal year.
- (4) FISCAL YEAR LIMITATIONS ON TRIBES.— The Secretary shall monitor the use of guarantees under this section by Indian tribes. If the Secretary finds that 50 percent of the aggregate guarantee authority under paragraph (3) has been committed, the Secretary may—
- (Å) impose limitations on the amount of guarantees pursuant to this section that any one Indian tribe may receive in any fiscal year of \$25,000,000; or
- (B) request the enactment of legislation increasing the aggregate outstanding limitation on guarantees under this section.
- (i) REPORT.—Not later than the expiration of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress regarding the utilization of the authority under this section by Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities, identifying the extent of such utilization and the types of projects and activities financed using such authority and analyzing the effectiveness of such utilization in carrying out the purposes of this section.
- (j) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary under this section to make new guarantees for notes and obligations shall terminate on October 1, 2012.

H.B. 2786

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 4: At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRE-MENT FOR OCCUPANCY OR ASSIST-ANCE

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Any assistance provided with any amounts made available pursuant to any authorization of appropriations under this Act, or under the amendments made by this Act, including occupancy in housing assisted with such amounts, may not be made available to, or on behalf of, any individual or household unless the individual provides, or, in the case of a household, all adult members of the household provide, valid personal identification in one of the following forms:
- (1) SOCIAL SECURITY CARD WITH PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD OR REAL ID ACT IDENTIFICATION.—
- (A) A social security card accompanied by a photo identification card issued by the Federal Government or a State Government;
- (B) A driver's license or identification card issued by a State in the case of a State that is in compliance with title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (title II of division B of Public Law 109-13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note).
- (2) PASSPORT.—A passport issued by the United States or a foreign government.
- (3) USCIS PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD.—A photo identification card issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security (acting through the Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services).
- (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, by regulation, require that each tribally designated housing entity and other recipient of amounts described in subsection (a) take such actions as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of subsection (a).

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OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 5: At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. REQUIREMENT OF OFFSETS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—No authorization of appropriations made by this Act, or by the amendments made by this Act, or any other provision of this Act that results in costs to the Federal Government, shall be effective except to the extent that this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, provide for offsetting decreases in spending of the Federal Government, such that the net effect of this Act and such amendments does not either increase the Federal deficit or reduce the Federal surplus.
- (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms "deficit" and "surplus" have the meanings given such terms in the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.).

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OFFERED BY: MR. WATT

AMENDMENT No. 6: Page 3, line 9, strike the quotation marks and the last period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(1) LIMITATION ON USE FOR CHEROKEE NA-TION.—No funds authorized under this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, or appropriated pursuant to an authorization under this Act or such amendments, shall be expended for the benefit of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is in full compliance with the Treaty of 1866 and fully recognizes all Cherokee Freedmen and their descendants as citizens of the Cherokee Nation."

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OFFERED BY: MR. WESTMORELAND

AMENDMENT No. 7: Page 18, strike lines 1 through 6.